Dear Readers: Happy Holidays!

I have great news for you in this second issue of The International Tiger: Our readership is expanding rapidly! As of today, readers from 64 countries clicked on our first issue, and it has had over 1500 page views. It is very energizing to know that LSU’s internationalization is of global interest. You could help us expand our readership with one click: by sending the link [http://international.lsu.edu/internationaltiger.php] to someone you know once before the holiday season starts and a second time right at New Years! In this second issue, we highlight stories from all dimensions of internationalization: administration, faculty, students, alumni and other stakeholders. Complementing our first issue’s interview with former President of Honduras Carlos Flores, we spotlight the former First Lady of Honduras, Mrs. Mary Flores, who coincidentally happens to be a U.S. born LSU Tiger. We also bring to you insights from deans of two Colleges about internationalization. We view faculty as the fuel for internationalization and deans are pivotal in promoting and facilitating faculty engagement. As such, we provide you with a fresh look at their views on a field of global interest: STEM. Dean Richard Koubeek, College of Engineering, and Dean Cynthia Peterson, College of Science took some time to talk with us about what internationalization means for their colleges. Speaking of science, did you know that every year LSU brings international scientists to collaborate with LSU scientists? We have a story for you on what they do at LSU and how we are celebrating it—can’t miss this one! Additionally, we bring you updates on international student happenings on campus, and are pleased to announce the creation of the LSU Alumni Association International Student Scholarship! Finally, we share with you stories of LSU collaborations around the globe and in a variety of disciplines. These are a few of the highlights of what is happening at LSU International Programs. I truly hope that this issue provides you with further opportunities to enjoy the holidays, and I am certain that you will enjoy The International Tiger even more if you share it with other LSU friends and family. Before I go, I have a request: are you interested in sending us your story? If so, please contact our office. Until next time. Yours truly!

- Dr. Hector O. Zapata
Mary Flake Flores, former First Lady of Honduras, earned a B.S. in Merchandising in 1971 from LSU. At LSU, she met her husband and future President of Honduras (1998-2002), Carlos Flores. Of her time at LSU, she says that it “exposed her to a larger world” meeting her husband and so many international students. In 1973, the couple moved to Honduras. She stated that the change was somewhat dramatic; there were few American products available, and the cuisine was very different. However, she noted that she had a group of American friends there who had Honduran spouses, helping her acclimate to life in a foreign country. During her time as First Lady, Mrs. Flores had the opportunity to meet with well-known leaders, such as George H. W. Bush, 41st President of the United States, Hillary Clinton, former United States Secretary of State, U.S. Senator, and First Lady of the United States, and U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana. Mrs. Flores described them as inspirational people who do extraordinary things. While in Honduras, Mrs. Flores committed herself to humanitarian works. She worked with the children of Honduras, in the public hospitals and schools. Mrs. Flores said she was concerned about the children of Honduras’ future, as many were from rural areas and unaccustomed to having higher education as an option. She said when she asked them about their futures, they told her about farming or washing clothes. “It was amazing to see how many of them couldn’t see themselves doing anything beyond their rural lifestyle.” This prompted Mrs. Flores to think of a center for interesting interactive play so children could be inspired to dream of an array of career options. “I met with Dr. James Wolfensohn, the president of the World Bank, and we talked about improving educational levels in the country.” He was immediately interested in the children’s museum. Dr. Wolfensohn sourced significant funding for her cause. “I began the children’s museum to let children know that they have amazing skills and capabilities.” It worked to her advantage that she was American and was able to get funding from American companies. CNN donated television equipment for children to have a mock television set; Coca-Cola provided funding for an interactive environmental display; and Merck funded a human anatomy exhibit. The museum, Chiminike, is located in Honduras’ capital, Tegucigalpa, and opened in 2003. Learn more at: www.chiminike.org. Mrs. Flores also established a school lunch program in Honduras. The World Food Program donated grains and oil, UNICEF donated tools and seeds to plant in school gardens. USAID, numerous NGO’s, and other foundations cooperated in supplying funds for soy products. The program proved to be highly effective in producing healthier children, increasing test scores, improving retention rates, and advancing the number of school grades completed. The amount of international assistance Mrs. Flores received for her programs demonstrates the importance of global connections. Without these contacts, along with the tireless effort she poured into her work, the limited opportunities and challenging conditions for Honduran children would have been even harder to alleviate. Mrs. Flores’ message for students is to engage globally. “Any experience you have, you will learn something” she says. It adds to your world view to participate in opportunities abroad, she notes, and students should take advantage of those opportunities. Certainly, Mrs. Flores’ life and work in Honduras exemplifies this. When asked which project in Honduras was closest to her heart, her response was a humble, yet poignant, “all of them”.

Have an international /LSU story to share?
Contact: Jill Fisse jfisse@lsu.edu or Ashley Hermes ahermes@lsu.edu
LSU’s College of Engineering is the largest engineering program in the state, and the 18th largest in the U.S. College of Engineering Dean Richard Koubek tells of the importance of internationalization within his college, and within LSU as a whole. He says that engineering students with international experience get preference from employers, who come to LSU to hire the future leadership of their companies, many of which have operations globally. The College of Engineering actively encourages its students to engage in international internships, as well as study abroad short term programs and exchanges offered through International Programs/Academic Programs Abroad. Click here to learn more... Additionally, the curriculum in the College of Engineering is targeted towards international awareness by using embedded content, and last year an international network was established with partner universities overseas to ensure that the engineering coursework there would cross-list seamlessly with LSU, facilitating the transfer of study abroad credits. The LSU College of Engineering is also about to open a campus in Jakarta, Indonesia. In March 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Sampoerna University, under auspices of the Putera Sampoerna Foundation. The Putera Sampoerna Foundation supports affordable international education. As such, Indonesian students will be able to attend the campus in Jakarta and obtain an LSU degree. Dean Koubek says that Indonesia was a good choice for multiple reasons: it is the 4th largest country in population worldwide, and the 2nd largest democracy. Its economy and the economy in Louisiana have similarities. LSU faculty will travel there to teach, and students will be able to study Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Computer Science. Click here to learn more... Dean Koubek says that Engineering programs at LSU have room for increased international student enrollment across the board, and that they hope to be active participants in increasing international student enrollment at LSU. Of International Programs, Dean Koubek says that the centralization of International Programs (IP) provides infrastructure for students, and that working with IP is “truly a partnership for educating students.”

LSU College of Science Dean Cynthia Peterson says of her college that “Science is by definition an international pursuit, and the internationalization of LSU benefits the college because it mimics the real world”. She expects her college and International Programs to develop a close partnership and facilitate new exchanges in the coming years. She says that because science is collaborative and involves solving real world problems, it is ultimately a communal pursuit. “Our students are ‘worldly’ by nature because their studies involve the larger, global community,” Dean Peterson said. Students from the College of Science travel worldwide regularly for research. Geology is the College of Science’s fastest growing major, and has multiple courses with onsite learning experiences in France; one is taught at the Museum of Natural History in Paris, and the other is a field class with a French Oceanographic Station in Villefranche sur Mer. Click here to learn more... Biological Sciences also has a program in multiple locations in France for graduate student research. Click here to learn more... Dean Peterson states that all programs in the College of Science have capacity for and would be interested in having more international students. Physics, Chemistry, and Math all have students working, studying, and conducting research in locations such as Asia, Europe, and Central and South America. In fact, a team of graduate students from LSU recently went to Peru and broke a world record for identifying bird species in a single day. Click here to view the video... “STEM is a worldwide initiative” she says, and “we, as a college, are interested in diversification.”
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS HOSTS RESEARCH FAIR

On November 18th, LSU International Programs Cultural Planning Committee, hosted the first International Research Fair in the LSU Union. There were ten Exchange Visitor participants from all over the world, presenting posters describing the impactful research they are conducting while at LSU. The purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program is to provide foreign nationals with opportunities to participate in educational and cultural programs in the United States and return home to share their experiences, and to encourage Americans to participate in educational and cultural programs in other countries.

Participants at the International Research Fair were encouraged to not only describe their research, but to tell their own international stories; how they got here, where they are from, and why their research is globally relevant. Presentation topics included Pathobiological Sciences, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, and Political Philosophy.

Opening remarks for the Research fair were given by Dr. Kalliat T. Valsaraj, Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development, Roddey Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering, Ike East Professor of Chemical Engineering; he was introduced by Dr. Hector O. Zapata, Executive Director of International Programs, Past Presidents of the LSU Alumni Association Alumni Professor.

Three participants then spoke, giving a brief overview of their international experiences. Dr. Fabrizio Donnarumma, Dr. Pushpendra Singh, and Ms. Daniella Pforto told the audience about how their research has brought them to LSU. Then, audience members were able to walk around to the different participants’ posters and hear about their work and ask questions. A panel of judges then selected winners. First Place went to Dr. Pushpendra Singh, Second Place to Dr. Pankaj Baral, and Third Place went to Dr. Ma. Del Rocio Baños-Lara. All three are doing research in the field of Pathobiological Sciences. Click here for more information about the presenters....

BRITISH GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTS RESEARCH BACK HOME

Matilda Elgood Field, from the United Kingdom, completed a program of study with the LSU Department of Environmental Sciences, School of the Coast & Environment. While studying at LSU, she participated in an internship aboard the research vessel RV Acadiana to do assessments on the effects of oil on marine invertebrate due to the BP Horizon Oil Spill. She learned how to manage ship equipment and collected water and sediment samples from major delta regions and barrier islands off the coast of Louisiana. She has since returned to Britain and presented her research findings to faculty and students at the University of Sheffield.
LSU students have a strong pull to France. It is the number one destination for exchange students from LSU, which is no surprise considering Louisiana’s rich history with France. There are a variety of options for LSU students to participate in, including summer programs and long-term exchanges. LSU currently has agreements with 25 partner institutions scattered throughout France. These exchanges allow students to take courses at French institutions and transfer course credits back to LSU.

Participating in a semester or academic year program, students fully immerse themselves into the French language and culture, gaining firsthand knowledge of French life. Long term exchanges provide unique experiences, which help students stand out from their peers once in the job market. While abroad, students engage in the community, strengthening and building French conversational skills, widening their world view, and creating a lifetime of memories.

Lyon is a popular exchange location. It is one of the largest cities in France, just a few hours from Paris and the French Alps, and is frequently regarded as the center of culinary arts. One highlight for students on exchange in Lyon, is the annual Fête des Lumières, a festival of lights dating back to the 1600s. The Lyon program provides students with opportunities to study at rigorous institutions with specialized courses ranging from Comparative Cultural studies, European Business Realities and European Politics. Click here to learn more...
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION AT LSU

Members of the International Student Association (ISA) visited International Programs to discuss topics relevant to the international student body. One of the topics they discussed was scholarship money available to international students. “It’s so expensive for international students to attend LSU,” one of the leaders said. Most of the leaders for the ISA stated that LSU was a great school to attend because of its research programs and other academic opportunities, but some found that integrating themselves into the LSU community was challenging. “Most Americans respect our beliefs and we respect theirs, but making friends is hard because we don’t have as much cultural common ground,” they stated.

“My advice for prospective students is to get involved with an organization, whether on campus or off campus, where you will meet people you have things in common with,” one student said. All of the members of the ISA agreed that becoming part of an organization helped them find new friends as well as connect with other international students on campus. When asked if their experiences as international students helped them, they all said that the experience made them stronger and more confident individuals.
ISA PRESIDENT MICHAEL PANTHER MAYEN

Michael Panther Mayen grew up in war-torn Sudan. In the fall of 2014, he became the President for the International Student Association & International Cultural Center (ICC) at LSU. One might ask how he went from the turmoil of civil war in Sudan to president of an organization at an American university. “It was very interesting growing up in Sudan during the war. But then I moved to Kenya in 2004 and finished high school at an international school in Nairobi,” Michael says. He came to the United States in 2011 where he stayed with his sponsors, whom he describes as family, in Michigan. He began looking into colleges there, but decided he wasn’t interested in navigating the snow and ice, given that he operates out of a wheelchair. “I like being independent. Living in an area with heavy snowfall was only going to make things more difficult,” he says. He began his studies at LSU in 2012. “I was planning on trying it out for a year and if I didn’t like it, I would have probably gone back to Michigan. But after my first year I loved it,” Michael says. While majoring in economics and minoring in math, Michael has also found time to be involved with LSU’s international programs and students. Having been elected president for the International Student Association and the ICC, he’s been collaborating with LSU International Programs on what goals they want to achieve while he’s president. “I want to make sure international students enjoy their experience at LSU. I want them to feel comfortable so they will go back to their home countries and tell other students to come to the university,” Michael explains. Michael also wants to invite speakers to international forums to speak about global issues that are open to all of LSU and the Baton Rouge community. But he understands he will need the help of others. “I can’t do it alone. People will need to work together and communicate. That’s the only way things will get done,” he says.

LSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPANNOUNCED

Asian American Ambassadors (AAA) at LSU, together with LSU’s International Student Association, hosted the Asian American Cultural Heritage Showcase on Friday, November 21st, in the International Programs International Cultural Center. At the close of a very busy International Education Week on LSU’s campus, AAA represented several Asian cultures in various forms. Tim O’Young and Nathan Wang performed Chinese martial arts with long pole and broadsword. Isabelle Vea recited poems in Filipino. Rachel Flemming, Dylan Pham, Danny Pham, and Robin Lem demonstrated the contemporary pop dance of Japan. Jennifer Kim praised Korean culture in song. Dr. Hector Zapata, Executive Director of International Programs at LSU, made several exciting announcements about initiatives that will benefit international students. He announced the establishment of the LSU Alumni Association International Student Scholarship, that will begin in 2015 from the LSU Alumni Foundation to four winners. The scholarship will reward international students’ success in both academics and extracurricular activities. The Asian American Ambassadors are focused on promoting the Asian culture on campus. This has been the second year of its heritage showcase to show LSU students the beauty of Asian literature and arts. With the support of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and International Programs, the event was very successful and well attended.
Think of a hot Bolivian night. Or an icy Russian winter. Or a humid Louisiana summer. This is what Oscar Gieco, Director of Music at the Conservatory of Cordoba in Argentina, tells his students. “You must play music like you’re immersed in that culture,” Gieco says. Music is a ubiquitous language. It evokes emotions that everyone understands. This is the beauty of music and why it is a natural instrument of connection. It needs no translation – it only needs to be understood. According to Gieco, a clarinetist, the best way to truly understand music and play it well is to understand the culture which it harkens from. “I tell my students to go out. Why not come to LSU? Why not learn about a unique culture?” Gieco says. He states that it’s important to learn the basics of music, but it’s good for the formation of the individual to learn the different variations in music by culture. Gieco was visiting LSU’s College of Music and Dramatic Arts to attend concerts and forge a connection with the school. He hopes that his music students and LSU’s music students can learn from one another. “Fine art is important to Argentinian culture,” says Gieco. “There’s a lot of ancient Indian influence and it’s important for students to know that. It’s good to take modern music and incorporate those ancient tones into it.” Gieco studied in places such as France and New York while he was a clarinet student. He hopes that LSU and the Conservatory of Cordoba students choose to study music at each other’s schools and learn how to be better musicians by understanding different cultures.
UNITEC (Central American Technological University) is a private university in Honduras that provides a strong education to its students and plays an active role internationally, through collaborative projects and global partnerships with other universities, including LSU. Dr. Marlon Brevé, academic vice-rector for UNITEC and LSU alumnus, says LSU and UNITEC are top notch schools in their countries. “The U.S. has some of the best colleges in the world and LSU has a great campus and student life.”

Dr. Brevé says that his time at LSU expanded his horizons and helped develop his personal growth. He says, “One of my first memorable moments at LSU was scoring high enough on the TOEFL (English test) to be admitted to the university. Another moment was when I got an A in my first calculus class.” Dr. Brevé claims that he originally felt insecure about his academic abilities because he was from a third world country, but these achievements, along with making the cut on the LSU Soccer Club, raised his confidence. “Playing sports allowed me to travel around the southern U.S. and meet new players from different countries and cultures,” Brevé says. Getting involved in clubs and student associations helped shape his experience at LSU and left a positive impact on his character. “It provided great leadership opportunities. It taught me discipline, teamwork, and empathy for other people and cultures.” Dr. Brevé also says that his studies at LSU and other U.S. universities prepared him to be involved in his home country on a professional and political level. He states, “Having an education from LSU gave me a competitive advantage over other professionals in Honduras.”Many Honduran students study at LSU, but the numbers have dropped in the past few years due to economic hardship in Honduras as well as the lack of scholarship money available for students. The partnership between LSU and UNITEC allows students to study at UNITEC for two years and then transfer to LSU to finish their degree. UNITEC students have service learning requirements that allow them to work with students from other universities. They develop global teamwork skills while doing work that contributes to solving practical problems. Dr. Brevé says they are also thinking of creating study abroad packages that will offer courses in tropical conservation, agriculture, and global development. When asked how to accomplish these goals, Dr. Brevé was clear that the assistance of alumni would be necessary. “We have to find people who are willing to be pioneers. We have a small, spread out population of LSU alumni in Honduras. We need those who want to give back through creating scholarships and fundraising opportunities to help students,” he says. Dr. Brevé believes people in high positions should contribute to furthering education opportunities for students, academically and financially. He says, “We want to help students connect with others, to help others, and to help themselves.”

http://www.unitec.edu/
International students contribute greatly to athletics at LSU, and one such example is Jamie Keehn, the starting punter for the LSU football team. Keehn, who hails from Miners Rest, Australia, came to LSU to play football. After graduating high school in Australia in 2006, Keehn decided not to attend college, and began working full time. He then attended Prokick, a kicking school in Australia specifically geared towards training Australian football players to become punters for American football teams. Though he says he was recruited by some other American schools, LSU offered him a visit, and he “...pretty much committed on the spot.” Keehn indicated that his experience as an LSU international student and athlete had been a positive one; he noted spending time interacting with other international athletes from the swim team, track and field, and women’s soccer. When asked if he would recommend LSU to other international athletes, he said he absolutely would, and then mentioned that he hosted LSU men’s basketball player Darcy Malone, who is also Australian, while Malone was being recruited by LSU. When asked what he enjoys most about Louisiana, Keehn’s response was immediate: “the food.” He stated that everyone here has been very welcoming. Additionally, he indicated that he enjoys the warm weather in Louisiana, though he does miss his family and friends back in Australia. Keehn’s advice for other international students coming to LSU is to get out and do as much as possible, and to accept and enjoy the hospitality people here will offer you. For LSU students looking to study abroad in Australia, Keehn says, “Do it. You’ll love it. It will be an eye-opening experience.” Jamie Keehn is a junior majoring in Sports Administration. The Tigers went 8-4 this season, and Keehn was ranked eighth in punting by the NCAA. Click here to learn more...

**UNA Students with Dr. Hector Zapata:**

Did you know IP’s executive director graduated from UNA (formerly ENA)? LSU has a collaboration with the National Agriculture University in Honduras (UNA), which hosts study tours for Honduran students. It has created an internship program that brings outstanding graduates from UNA to work with the LSU AgCenters’ scientists. Dr. Zapata was co-founder of this program along with Ms. Susan Karimiha.

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    - Emergency Only (225)578-2377
  - Bursar Operations (225)578-3357
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