LSU is home to a culturally diverse student population, and we are proud to not only send many of our students around the world for incredible educational experiences, but also to welcome students from other parts of the globe to study here at our great university. Cultural exchanges are key to building a better student experience, and LSU has taken strides to increase both the number and quality of programs we offer every semester.

Study abroad programs not only contribute to the economies of each individual region, but they also bridge the divide between countries and cultures, breaking barriers and generating friendships that will last a lifetime. International travel for educational purposes also supports U.S. innovation through science and engineering, and brings a global perspective to our classrooms. The dramatic increase from 547,867 foreign students in U.S. colleges in 2001 to 819,644 in 2013 shows that the environment we provide for our international students fosters support, innovation, and opportunity – and tremendous room for growth.

With that being said, the international students bring with them originality, tradition, and diversity to our schools here in the U.S. With more than 1,500 international students from over 110 countries on our campus, it is important to recognize the influence of international students right here at LSU. We are grateful to those who chose to make LSU their home while pursuing their studies, and we are working diligently to continue increasing the amount of opportunities we offer for our international students and for those who are interested in study abroad.

We want our students to walk away with not only a degree in hand, but a collection of experiences that have broadened their horizons, making them better global citizens and more attractive employees. Study abroad and international programs are a huge part of that process, and we thank you for being a part of it.

Sincerely,
F. King Alexander
LSU President and Chancellor

If you would like to support scholarship opportunities for international students and study abroad, click [here](#).
LSU International Programs (IP) lost a seasoned veteran this February to retirement. Ms. Judy Fernandez was with International Programs for nearly 20 years and with LSU even longer. “My favorite thing about working at LSU was when I was the Band Director’s Secretary,” Ms. Judy stated. “Walking with the marching band from the band hall on game day was awesome! And being in Tiger Stadium with the fans cheering for the band was worth all the work.” Though this is one of her fondest memories at LSU, Ms. Judy first began her career at the LSU Livestock Show Office where she says she met some wonderful people during her time there.

“I started at the International Services Office (ISO) in March of 1996,” she said. She began her IP career as the front desk manager, where she had daily interaction with the international students and faculty. She maintained this position for four years until she was promoted to office manager and worked directly for the executive director.

Since that time, Ms. Judy worked with five executive directors for the department. The first was Mr. Royce Shaw who worked with the program for a few years. He was followed by acting Executive Director Ken Carpenter, who was well-liked by the staff, but who didn’t want to leave his department to remain at IP fulltime. Ms. Judy recalls the department was then “blessed” to have Dr. Stephen Lucas step into the position after being promoted from his duties as Director of Academic Programs Abroad (APA). He worked with the department until his death and was replaced by Dr. Lakshman Velupillai, who retired after five years. IP is currently lead by Dr. Hector Zapata, Associate Vice Provost for International Programs.

Ms. Judy says the main change in IP has been the merger of ISO, APA, the International Cultural Center, and International Development. “The goal of IP is getting everyone to work as one unit.” Ms. Judy advises anyone who is new to LSU to work at least 10 years. “By that time, you’re invested into the retirement system. It seems like a long time, but it really goes by fast,” she claimed. As for her retirement, Ms. Judy says she plans on traveling and spending time with her family. Though she was ready to relax and move on, she says she will miss the students, faculty, and staff at LSU. We wish her the very best and thank her for her years of service to LSU and to International Programs.

 LSU WOMEN’S GOLF: INTERNATIONAL CAMARADERIE EQUALS SUCCESS

The Lady Tigers, coached by Karen Bahnsen, have had a season to remember. Three players are ranked in the top 20 nationally, and LSU senior Madeleine Sagstrom from Sweden is ranked number two in the nation and was named the 2015 SEC Player of the Year. Sagstrom placed third overall in the SEC Championship while the team came in seventh. The Lady Tigers also tied for fourth at the NCAA Regional Tournament, with Sagstrom finishing first and LSU sophomore Caroline Nistrup from Denmark placing second. Nistrup is ranked 15th in the nation and LSU junior Elise Bradley from Mandeville, Louisiana is ranked 19th. Sagstrom and Nistrup were also named first All-American golfers by the Women’s Golf Coaches Association.

LSU is one of four SEC teams ranked in the top 10 nationally and won three titles this season. The team is made up of both domestic and international student athletes. The domestic students include junior Elise Bradley from Mandeville, Louisiana, freshman Sydney Cavin from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and sophomore Carly Ray Goldstein from Coral Springs, Florida. The international students are freshman Claudia De Antonio from Venezuela, junior Nadine Dreher from Austria, sophomore Caroline Nistrup from Denmark, and senior Madeleine Sagstrom from Sweden. International Programs had the opportunity to speak with the team about their experiences competing together and getting to know one another. Click here to watch our interview with the LSU Women’s Golf Team! For more on their stats, please visit www.lsusports.net.
Q: What are your thoughts on comprehensive internationalization?

A: At LSU, we want our students to be prepared to be successful in an increasingly complex global economy. One of the most compelling reasons to attend a flagship university like LSU is the ability to leverage the high quality reputation of the university to open opportunities far beyond the boundaries of the state of Louisiana and the United States.

Q: What is your college's capacity to increase the number of international students? Which schools have the most capacity for increased numbers of international students?

A: This year alone we have students joining our programs from Vietnam, Iran, China, and a number of other countries. We also have a very international faculty with professors from Jamaica, China, Korea, Germany, Holland, and Canada. The School of Kinesiology and the School of Education in particular have a strong trajectory of engaging international students.

Q: What initiatives are the College of Human Sciences & Education taking to internationalize its curriculum? How globalized is your current curriculum? In which programs do you see the most opportunities for curriculum globalization?

A: The School of Kinesiology has an initiative for students and faculty from Beijing Sport University and Shanghai University of Sport who come to LSU to participate in course work and cross-cultural engagement. In the School of Education, the Curriculum Theory Project has shown leadership through initiatives and connections with China and Chile. We also have begun to expand our courses to larger contexts through successful study abroad programs in Australia, New Zealand, and Chile.

Q: What other projects are in the works for your college that facilitate comprehensive internationalization?

A: We are pursuing funding through 100,000 Strong in the Americas to help develop and deliver global leadership training as a cross-school initiative with the School of Human Resource Education & Workforce Development and the School of Education.

Q: How is your college encouraging students to study abroad?

A: Our most developed study abroad program is the LSU Teaching in Chile program, which is open to students university-wide who are interested in working with Chilean K-12 students on strengthening their English. It's the most affordable short-term summer study abroad option on campus.

Q: What are your expectations of International Programs with regards to the internationalization of your college and LSU?

A: Affordability remains a significant barrier to student participation in study abroad and in terms of longer internationalization experiences; therefore, it is important we keep coming to the table together to find ways to make opportunities not just available but also affordable.
On April 25, 2015, the LSU African Student Organization hosted its annual African Night, “54 Shades of Africa,” at the International Cultural Center. Thelma Ihunde from Uganda, and member of the organization, said that African Night is designed to celebrate and showcase African heritage. “It’s why we especially desire people who are not African to attend, because they get to see fashion, drama, dance, poetry, and eat authentic African food,” she said. Ihunde said this year they had an African designer showing and selling clothes and jewelry. ASO also invited a group from Houston to perform traditional African dances and chants, including a Zulu chant, which was the famous opening song for the movie “The Lion King.”

Ihunde says she hopes that in the future, African Night will add more to its event. “We used to have soccer tournaments and games years ago,” she said. Ihunde said African Night used to take place in the Union Theater, and they would pack the room with people of all ethnicities. However, she said one of the major reasons they hold the event at the International Cultural Center is because they are allowed to make the food themselves, which would otherwise have to be catered by LSU. Ihunde said, “We want to have African food made by Africans. That’s what makes it unique.” She said she would like to see more people of different cultures attend the event in the future and learn about African heritage.

For more pictures, visit the African Student Association Facebook page here.

On April 18, the LSU International Student Association hosted International Fusion 2015: Around the World in One Night. With over 1,000 guests in attendance, International Fusion showcased the talents of LSU’s international and domestic students alike, featuring singing, dancing, musical performances, and a fashion show highlighting styles of dress from around the world.

The four recipients of the new LSU Alumni Association International Student Scholarships were announced and presented by Dr. Jane Cassidy, Vice Provost for Human Resources & Facilities Management, Dr. Hector Zapata, Executive Director International Programs, Mr. John Grubb, Vice President of Hotel Operations LSU Alumni Association, and Michael Panther Mayen, President of the International Student Association.

After the performances, guests were invited to the International Cultural Center to enjoy international food and to celebrate together. Congratulations to the LSU International Student Association, and to each of the performers, for a very successful and entertaining event.

Please click here to see the International Fusion 2015 Program and photo gallery! Click here for the facebook page.
Sandra Galeano (Graduate): "I feel very privileged to be chosen by the LSU Alumni Association to receive this scholarship. I think this will have a huge impact on fellow international students because it will help alleviate the economic challenges we face and it will also motivate us to do our very best while at school. LSU has been so integral to my development because it exposed me to a strong academic atmosphere and diverse culture. I’ve learned so much from my peers and professors through my involvement with the campus community and it has prepared me for my future. I had the opportunity to work with technologies that don’t exist in my country, which will help me reach my ultimate goal of becoming a professor. My hope is to graduate in December and then return to my country of Colombia to become a teacher and researcher in ecology and conservation biology." Ms. Galeano is a Ph.D. candidate in biological sciences. She is from Colombia and is the first member of her family to earn a degree, leave the country, and speak a second language. Along with her numerous publications, presentations, awards, and honors, she has also volunteered with Girls in Science at Tulane University and with the Ecological Society of America.

Damir Torrico (Graduate): “It's a great honor to receive this scholarship not only for the recognition, but also to help pay additional expenses. The international community doesn't really have a lot of awards like this, so I think it will motivate us to study harder and get involved in LSU campus life. I've been at LSU for five years and it is like a family to me. The professors, faculty, and staff are very nice and have helped guide me academically and personally to achieve a lot of things. My time as an international student at LSU has been great. I've learned so much and I think it's important to be in an environment with a variety of people. There are many Latin Americans at LSU and I like that familiarity, but having an international community is good tradition and allows us to interact with different people. After graduation I plan to get a job either in the U.S. or another country, and then after some time return home.” Mr. Torrico is from Bolivia and pursuing a doctorate in nutrition and food science. He has received multiple awards, honors, and scholarships and published several works in his field. He was also the VP of the LSU Food Science Club, President of the Zamorano Agricultural Society, and VP of the Latin American Student Association.

Seleipiri Charles (Undergraduate): “This scholarship means a lot because it’s a sign that my hard work is being acknowledged and it motivates me to keep working harder. I think having the International Student Scholarship is great because there are no scholarships at this university for international students, so this will help motivate them to do well. Currently, I’m working in an undergraduate research lab and my boss has been a huge mentor to me. He has helped prepare me to present at conferences and found funding for me to work for him, which has opened up so many opportunities for me. Volunteering in campus life helped me see that America isn’t perfect and it let me understand people better. It's been fascinating being an international student because I've learned about different cultures and religions that I wasn't exposed to back home. Once I graduate I plan on getting a M.S. and Ph.D. in biomedical engineering.” Ms. Charles is from Nigeria and working on a B.S. in chemical engineering. She is VP of the International Cultural Center and, along with other volunteer and leadership roles, was team leader with Encounter Engineering and TEDxLSU.

Mudiaga Ovuede (Undergraduate): “Financially the LSU International Student Scholarship is really helpful, but even more importantly, it's a mental boost because it shows someone is looking out for students and seeing their efforts. My friends are really excited for it and they plan to work hard so they will have a chance at receiving it the next time it's available. LSU has been great place to be and the culture is very similar to mine back in Nigeria, but at the same time, exposed me to different people – I just love it! Being involved with the campus community was the best way to make friends, and I've really enjoyed being an international student here because it set me apart from others and made people want to learn about me. My goal after I graduate is to go straight into the workforce. I'd like to work for an international oil company and eventually move back home.” Mr. Ovuede is currently pursuing a B.S. in petroleum engineering. He is involved with several on-campus organizations, such as the African Student Organization and the Society of Petroleum Engineers, and is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta academic honor society.
On December 10, 2014, a delegation from the Université des Antilles-Guyane (UAG) visited the LSU campus, meeting with faculty and administrators to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration and future engagement.

The members of the delegation were: Mr. Raymond Hinz, Attaché de Coopération pour le Français, Mission Culturelle et Universitaire, Consulat Général de France; Dr. Dominique Aurélia, Vice-President and Director of International Relations, Université des Antilles-Guyane; and Dr. Myriam Moïse, Professor of Foreign Languages. The delegation visited with Dean Chris D’Elia of the School of the Coast & Environment, Associate Dean Malcolm Richardson of the College of Humanities & Social Sciences, along with various faculty members. Additionally, the delegation met with Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Stuart Bell and Vice Provost for Academic Programs, Planning & Review T. Gilmour Reeve.

The delegation provided an overview of UAG, a public university with around 14,000 students. It is a French Créole University with campuses located in Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guiana, and offers programs of study in linguistics, literature, and sciences, amongst others. The reason for their visit is that Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guiana are French Départements; as such, UAG has an interest in possible future collaborations with LSU because of Louisiana’s special ties with the government of France. For more information about the Université des Antilles-Guyane, please visit http://www.univ-ag.fr. To explore opportunities for study abroad at Université des Antilles-Guyane as an LSU student, click here.

On Friday, April 24th, 2015, LSU International Programs and the LSU Cultural Programming Committee hosted the Visiting Scholar Spring Event. The event, held in the International Cultural Center, showcased the various talents of visiting international scholars at LSU. Initial remarks were made by Natalie Rigby, Director of International Services, followed by Susan Karimiha (Coordinator for International Programs for the AgCenter), member of the LSU Cultural Programming Committee. Loveness Schafer, Associate Director of International Services, also coordinated the event and introduced each performance. The opening showcase included a musical selection on violin by Dr. Lin He (Associate Professor of Violin) and piano by Didi Zhou (MBA student). Dinner was served and included jambalaya, cakes, cookies, coffee, and international cuisine prepared by the visiting scholars. A calligraphy table was set up allowing guests to request a message written in Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Arabic, and English (pictured below).

Additional entertainment by visiting scholars followed dinner. Dr. Hongjiang Zhao (Department of Finance) displayed to the crowd his Taij/Tai Chi (Martial Art) skills, while Dr. Naim Montazeri (Food Science, AgCenter) serenaded the audience by playing the Tar, a traditional Iranian string instrument. Dr. Bo Chen, visiting scholar in the LSU School of Art, sung a Chinese song titled “Paradise.” The final showcase of talent for the evening was Pramuditha Abhayawardhana and a group of LSU women from Sri Lanka performing a native dance to repetitive and repercussive drum beats. The event ended with two short documentary films presented by Dr. Ma del Rocio Banos-Lara (School of Veterinary Medicine) depicting the Mexican celebration of El Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead). The event was an opportunity for the community to interact with the international faculty, staff, and student population at LSU, while casually enjoying great food and skilled entertainment. Click here to see photos of some of the performances!
LSU alumnus Manolo Porro is the General Manager of Hydroponics of Nicaragua. Hydroponics involves the growing of vegetables and plants in greenhouses with water, nutrient solutions, and inert material – no soil is used in the process. Cuban-born Porro first traveled to Nicaragua in 1965 where he met Dr. Norman Efferson, former Dean of LSU College of Agriculture, while conducting experiments with rice growers in the area. He filled out an application and was admitted to LSU in 1974.

Upon arriving on LSU’s campus, Porro fell in love with the culture. “My favorite part about living in another country was my exposure to different views and ways of life,” Porro said. “It took me out of my comfort zone and gave me a broader view on life.” Porro also says he enjoyed the diversity of people, habits, food, and sports. He states that the most challenging thing about living away from home was how much freedom he enjoyed. Time management and discipline were the most important traits he learned from the experience abroad. “I had to learn to manage my time in order to be successful,” he said.

His desire to study agriculture came with his understanding of the unpredictable nature of it. “I wanted to learn how to make a good product,” he said, stating that everything from temperature, humidity, and radiation can affect the quality of crops. His time at LSU influenced his decision to export products to the U.S. and Canadian markets. “The U.S. market is the most stable market in the long run. This is especially true for farmers in Latin America,” Porro said, claiming the North American market is very profitable.

Porro speaks highly of his time and studies abroad. He encourages students to travel and live abroad even for a short time. “You end up appreciating things more. I also enjoy my successes more because of the challenges living abroad presented me.” Porro supports a stronger partnership between LSU and the Nicaraguan agricultural economy. He hopes to expand the LSU/Nicaraguan network to include faculty, alumni, and prospective students. Porro feels privileged to be part of the LSU community and to assist with efforts to promote LSU abroad.

He believes there is a lot of potential for involvement in Nicaragua with LSU alumni, and even helped start an LSU alumni chapter club while living in Miami. Porro suggests that a good way to reconnect with LSU alumni would be to have a branch of LSU agriculture present in Nicaragua to enhance the interchange of current LSU students with alumni abroad. He also thinks that organizing and creating more LSU chapter clubs with other Central American countries will help create a network of LSU alumni throughout Latin America. Porro welcomes the idea of hands-on learning exchanges between LSU and Nicaragua saying, “As an LSU alumnus, I am here to offer any help I can give to LSU in Nicaragua.”

In December 2014, Mr. Porro met with Dr. Hector Zapata, Executive Director of International Programs at LSU to discuss collaboration. LSU students in agriculture and business participated in study abroad excursions in Nicaragua in spring 2015.

What do you think are some ways LSU can engage with alumni internationally? Click here to offer your suggestions!

Would you like to share your story? Please contact editors Jill Fisse jfisse@lsu.edu & Ashley Hermes ahermes@lsu.edu

International Programs 101 Hatcher Hall
225-578-3191
Q: Why did you initially choose to study abroad?
A: I decided to study abroad to get Spanish credits, and it was an opportunity to take those classes in a foreign country.

Q: What made you choose the LSU in Argentina summer program specifically?
A: I originally wanted to go to Europe for study abroad, but I learned that there are lots of places other than Europe to study. The professor who does the Argentina program really encouraged me to try South America, and I don't regret it at all. I know I'll see Europe at some point, but I probably would've never thought to travel to South America.

Q: What was the most surprising thing about your experience?
A: I think I was surprised at how close the group got that went from LSU. We still get together to this day and go out and get dinner. It was nice to learn together and bond in a foreign country.

Q: How has this experience changed your view of other cultures?
A: This trip changed my life! It did so much for me. I had never left the country before or really thought about other cultures. Now I’m in love with all things international. I work for International Programs, and I want to see the world!

Q: What do you hope to gain from your experience this summer while on the LSU/Honors in Cuba program?
A: I want to continue practicing my Spanish this summer and learn all about Cuba, because it has such a complicated relationship with the U.S. I want to be able to come back and tell people about it.

Q: Do you think studying abroad will affect your career after graduation?
A: I hope so! I want to try to live and work abroad. Maybe I’ll study international law.

Q: Would you recommend studying abroad to other LSU students?
A: I absolutely would recommend study abroad to others. I tell everyone about it. I tell them they should go and do it because it’ll make them a better person.

Q: Has your employment with IP influenced your desire to continue traveling to other countries?
A: Definitely. I originally wanted to work with APA and encourage domestic students to travel, but working with IP allows me to interact with the international students on a daily basis. I get to experience other people and cultures right here at LSU. I absolutely love talking to students about where they are from and what language they speak. I learn about their cities and lives and even how to speak a few words in their language. It’s been so much fun.

To find out more about your study abroad options, click the LSU Academic Programs Abroad link here: [http://international.lsu.edu/APA/](http://international.lsu.edu/APA/)
International Programs would like to thank the LSU Alumni Association for sponsoring the LSU Alumni Association International Student Scholarship. “The LSU Alumni Association looks for opportunities to expand support for our academic units and is proud to partner with International Programs to provide much-needed financial resources to assist talented future alumni in pursuing their goals,” said Association President and CEO Cliff Vannoy. “With alumni and friends around the world, the association is truly a global community. We value the cultural and scholarly contributions of our students from abroad and know that when they return to their homelands, they will carry with them the values of the Tiger Nation.”

To learn more about the LSU Alumni Association, click here.

IN MEMORY OF ANTON JOE & ISHITA MAITY

We would like to dedicate this issue of The International Tiger to the memories of Ishita Maity and Anton Joe, two LSU international students from India, who tragically passed away on Sunday, April 26. Both were graduate students in the Department of Physics & Astronomy. Anton and Ishita will be greatly missed.

Anton Joe

Ishita Maity