MU International Center

2011-12 Annual Report
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On the cover: (Top left) Winner of the 2011 Study Abroad Photo Contest, by Miranda Metheny in Spissky Hrad, Slovakia. (Top right) International students participated in a football clinic cosponsored by the International Center and Mizzou Athletics in April 2012.

International students visit the Gateway Arch during an excursion in St. Louis in October 2011. Photo by Katie Wood
Letter from the director

The International Center is designed by MU to facilitate all things international. As we at the International Center reflect on the activities and results of this year’s work, it’s clear that Mizzou is a university with global reach and reputation.

But the charts, tables and numbers in our annual report tell only part of MU’s international story. This kind of report just can’t depict all the human energy, enterprise and intellect invested that make the numbers happen. The numbers in this report represent the work of people all across campus that choose to pursue scholarship across borders. In the process, they help build a global future for MU — and for Missouri.

We at the International Center congratulate all involved in MU international initiatives, and we dedicate our efforts to their continued success.

Go Tigers!

James K. Scott
Director of the International Center and Associate Vice Provost for International Initiatives
Overview

The International Center facilitates all things international at the University of Missouri and is committed to raising international awareness and fostering dialogue on critical world issues. The center's primary functional areas include:

- International initiatives
- International student and scholar services
- Study abroad
- Campus and community connections

International initiatives

The International Center works with faculty and staff from across campus to develop and maintain MU’s relationships with institutions around the world. The center also facilitates on-campus internationalization through curriculum and faculty development projects.

GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS

During 2011/12, the International Center advanced MU’s relationships with several key international institutions and organizations including:

- Belgium – Ghent University
- Ireland – University College Dublin, Trinity College, National University of Ireland-Galway
- Germany – University of Coburg
- South Africa – University of the Western Cape, Department of Science and Technology, National Research Foundation, Council for Industrial and Scientific Research, Agricultural Research Council, Human Sciences Research Council, USAID
- Panama – Technological University of Panama, Universidad Especializada de las Americas, Universidad Católica Santa María La Antigua, U.S. Embassy, EducationUSA
- Costa Rica – University of Costa Rica, Earth Institute, Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza
- Sweden – Linnaeus University, Halmstad University, Uppsala University
- Thailand – Khon Kaen University, Prince of Songkla University
- Indonesia – Sampoerna Foundation

In September 2011, Jim Scott, director of the International Center, represented MU at the EducationUSA Gateway Pavilion at the European Association for International Education Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. EducationUSA is a global network of more than 400 advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. International Center staff also represented MU at EducationUSA college fairs in Indonesia and Saudi Arabia.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

The center works to help faculty develop their international interests and expertise. Two signature programs in this area include the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program and the MU Global Scholars Program.
The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program sends 800 scholars and professionals each year to over 140 countries where they lecture or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.

In 2011/12, journalism professor Betty Houchin Winfield received this prestigious award to spend the spring semester lecturing at the University of Warsaw in Poland.

As MU’s campus representative for the Fulbright Scholar Program, the International Center director meets with faculty throughout the year to provide advice and support as they develop their applications. In spring 2012, the center hosted a campus visit by Dr. Andy Riess, assistant director of outreach for the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. Dr. Riess presented a workshop attended by 30 faculty members and met individually with interested faculty to discuss their specific interests and applications.

For the past fifteen years the International Center has provided oversight and leadership for the award-winning Global Scholars Program. In 2012, fourteen MU faculty members representing eight different academic divisions traveled to Costa Rica and Panama through the program. Thanks to the carefully arranged networking opportunities tailored to each participant’s academic and research interests, this year’s MU global scholars are developing several important new scholarly collaborations that expand both their own interests and MU’s global reach.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

In spring 2012, the International Center director, in collaboration with the MU Graduate School, Honors College and Mizzou Advantage, piloted the Learning Across Borders course. LAB provides students with the opportunity to participate in multidisciplinary “think tanks” on critical world issues, under the guidance of faculty experts. Student interest in the pilot program far exceeded expectations, with more than 60 students participating in one of the three pilot LABs offered on the topics of climate change, ethics of global health care and hate speech vs. free speech. The course will be open to graduate and honors college undergraduate students starting in spring 2013.

The International Center’s international student and scholar services staff provides comprehensive administrative and programmatic support to 2,198 international students and more than 800 visiting international faculty and staff and their dependents annually. International students and scholars at MU represent over 100 different nationalities, contributing to culturally diverse campus community. Each year approximately 600 new international students and 400 scholars arrive on campus to begin their academic and research programs.

BY THE NUMBERS

International students at the university include those pursuing MU degrees as well as exchange and other short-term visiting students. Services from the International Center begin even before students arrive on campus, through the processing of immigration documents required for obtaining the necessary visas. Upon arrival, the International Center provides a comprehensive orientation program as well as follow-up advising, workshops, document processing and activities to help student adjust to and thrive at MU.
In fall 2011, international student enrollment at MU increased from the previous year by 13 percent — from 1,948 to 2,198. International students represent about 5.4 percent of MU’s total enrollment of 33,805. While the discrete numbers of both undergraduate and graduate international students increased this year, undergraduates account for an increasing proportion of MU’s overall international student enrollment (see figure 1).

In 20011/12, MU welcomed students from 105 different countries. Particularly remarkable has been the dramatic growth in the university’s Chinese student population, accounting for 46 percent of the total international student population (see figure 2).

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**Figure 1: MU international student enrollment trend by level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate/Pro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002/03</td>
<td>1,077 (70%)</td>
<td>310 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003/04</td>
<td>1,028 (69%)</td>
<td>293 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004/05</td>
<td>1,044 (69%)</td>
<td>254 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>1,118 (68%)</td>
<td>251 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>1,128 (65%)</td>
<td>282 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>1,146 (64%)</td>
<td>360 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>1,116 (61%)</td>
<td>425 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>1,165 (60%)</td>
<td>462 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>1,235 (56%)</td>
<td>611 (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>1,235 (56%)</td>
<td>352 (16%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Figure 2: Top places of origin for MU international students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>-2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>-8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>29.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>-23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>58.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>200.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>55.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-42.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The International Center also supports international professors, researchers and short-term visiting scholars and staff employed at MU and provides assistance to the departments that host them. International scholars include employees with J-1 and H1-B visas, as well as those with business and tourist visas.

From the period of July 1, 2010 to June 20, 2011, MU hosted an estimated 755 international scholars, a 10 percent decrease from the previous year.

### 2011/12 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Complied with federal immigration record-keeping and reporting requirements for over 2,198 international students and 755 scholars.** This included receiving and fulfilling more than 3,250 document requests and providing more than 3,200 hours of one-on-one advising to students and scholars.

- **Organized fall and spring international student orientation program for more than 800 students.** To help welcome this record number of new international students at MU, the International Center enlisted the help of over 70 student and community volunteers, along with numerous campus and community sponsors. In addition to covering important immigration and academic topics, orientation provided opportunities to acquaint students with the community, including shopping trips, downtown tours and small-group dinners.

- **Improved services through implementation of international student services fee.** With the summer 2011 semester, MU began charging a new international student service fee each semester to all students on F-1 and J-1 visas enrolled in one credit or more. The purpose of the fee was to allow the International Center to meet the needs of MU’s rapidly growing international student population, particularly in light of upcoming changes to the federal government’s Student and Exchange Visitor Program.
GOING DIGITAL
As a matter of efficiency, convenience and environmental stewardship the International Center is committed to increasing its use of technology.

2011/12 brought the implementation of two significant online systems:

StudioAbroad is a web-based software application to centrally manage study abroad program information, student applications and student data.

ImageNow is a digital records system that has allowed the center to shift all active international student records to a nearly paperless filing system.

The center has also initiated a new effort to build a portfolio of eLearning modules to better serve our students. In the spring 2012, for example, the general pre-departure orientation for study abroad was moved to an entirely online format. Future planned eLearning modules will include international student orientation as well as topic-based workshops and tutorials.

Information System (SEVIS). The resulting revenue has allowed the center to add two additional international student advisers and a SEVIS assistant, and to contribute toward an expanded communications staff. Additionally, the funds supported the implementation of ImageNow, helping the office begin the transition to a paperless record-keeping system.

- **Doubled the number of weekly walk-in advising hours for international students.** One of the first priorities following the implementation of the new student services fee was to increase the International Center’s advising capacity. The addition of two new international student advisers allowed the center to almost immediately double the number of walk-in advising hours available to international students each week. At the same time, the center was able to cut the time required for processing document requests in half, from 10 to five days.

- **Expanded international sponsored student services.** Thanks to a collaboration between the International Center, Graduate School, Enrollment Management and Cashier’s Office, MU welcomed more international sponsored students to campus than ever before. These students come to MU with external funding from a source such as an outside university, institution, government agency, organization or business. The center’s sponsored student coordinator received and processed application dossiers of over 200 sponsored students applying for the fall 2012 semester. Of those, 60-70 new sponsored students are expected, bringing the total sponsored student population to more than 200.

- **Hosted reentry workshop for 70 students in partnership with American Councils.** The International Center hosted the U.S. Department of State’s 2012 Near East and South Asia Global Undergraduate Exchange program reentry workshop in Columbia March 30-April 2. The NESA UGRAD program is part of the Global Undergraduate Exchange program, a scholarship program, sponsored and managed by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the State Department, for emerging student leaders around the world. The workshops included sessions addressing topics including reverse culture shock, reflecting and processing an experience abroad and career guidance.

- **Coordinated the Curator’s Grant-in-Aid scholarship program to aid graduate and undergraduate international students demonstrating academic excellence and financial need.** In the early 1950s, the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri authorized this scholarship specifically for international students demonstrating both good academic standing and financial need. The center distributed $259,000 in GIA funding during 2011/12, allowing 177 excellent students facing difficult circumstances to continue their studies at MU.

- **Hosted visiting scholars.** In addition to supporting the international scholars hosted in departments across campus, the International Center partnered with the IIE-Russian International Education Administrator program to host Andrey Tolstikov, director of international research programs at Tyumen State University in Russia. The center also partnered with American Councils on the Fulbright Junior Faculty Development Program to host Marijana Kapovic, senior lecturer in the Department of Ecology, Faculty of Forestry at the University of Banja Luka in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
The International Center coordinates, develops and administers quality study abroad programs that help MU students gain an appreciation and understanding of other nations and cultures. Each year, well over a thousand MU students choose to enhance their academic experience through study abroad.

BY THE NUMBERS

During the 2010/11 academic year (the most recent, complete reporting period for study abroad available), MU sent a record 1,283 students abroad to earn credit toward their degree programs. This represents a nearly 11 percent increase as compared with the previous year. In the context of overall student population, an estimated 23.6 percent of the most recent undergraduate graduating class earned credit on a study abroad program. Over the past 10 years, the number of students that MU sends abroad on credit-bearing programs has more than doubled (see figure 3).

Following national trends, in 2010/11 the majority (79 percent) of MU students studying abroad participated on short-term programs. Participation in January intersession/spring break programs increased by 19 percent from the previous year, and study abroad during the summer term was up 14 percent. These more dramatic increases off-set the only slight increase in participation on longer-term study abroad programs as compared to the previous year (see figure 4).

In 2010/11, as in the previous five years, Italy was the most popular destination for MU students, with 151 students studying there. It was followed by Germany with 107 students and Spain with 106 (see figure 5, page 10).

2011/12 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Launched StudioAbroad.** The fall 2012 study abroad application cycle was the first that allowed students to apply through the International Center’s newly launched StudioAbroad web application. StudioAbroad not only provides a searchable online program catalog, it allows MU students to submit most required materials online. It has made applying for a study abroad program more convenient for students and more efficient for staff as they track program information and materials.
Figure 5: MU study abroad participation, leading destinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Delivered general pre-departure orientation online.** In spring 2012, the International Center successfully transitioned its general pre-departure study abroad orientation to an online format. This new approach replaced what was previously a three hour Saturday morning session, providing students with greater convenience as well as the ability to learn at their own pace and share the information more easily with their parents. Of the more than 600 MU students studying abroad during summer 2012, fall 2012 and the 2012/13 academic year, 98 percent successfully completed the online orientation and related assessment.

- **Increased diversity in study abroad participation.** To increase diversity in study abroad participation, the International Center continued to target marketing efforts toward African American students, as well as other groups that are underrepresented in study abroad participation, including men. During the 2010/11 academic year, the percentage of African American study abroad participants nearly doubled as compared to the previous year. The percentage of men studying abroad showed a modest increase.

- **Fostered increased integration of study abroad and the MU curriculum.** Working with academic departments and divisions, the International Center study abroad staff identified courses taught at colleges and universities abroad with which MU has partnerships that matched the curricular needs of students in specific academic majors. The resulting curriculum integration sheets highlight for students the study abroad options that best meet their academic needs.

- **Engaged student through social media.** Throughout the year, the center successfully engaged select students to share their experiences on the MU Study Abroad Blog. Readership of the blog more than tripled from the previous year, reaching over 10,000 views during 2011/12.

- **Enhanced reentry programming.** To better meet students’ needs, improve relationships with study abroad alumni, emphasize that study abroad is a process with multiple stages and share resources with other colleges and universities in Missouri, MU will host the first-ever state-wide reentry conference Oct. 20, 2012. Organized by the International Center, conference sessions will focus on career development, the cross-cultural reentry process and digital storytelling.

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**ONLINE ORIENTATION**

Of the more than 600 MU students studying abroad during summer 2012, fall 2012 and the 2012/13 academic year, **98 percent successfully completed the online orientation** and related assessment.

**2011/12 BLOGGERS**

- **Miranda Metheny** (journalism, international studies and Spanish) studied at the University of Bergen in Norway for the spring 2012 semester.
- **Ashleigh Bello** (international studies, emphasis in Latin American studies) spent the spring 2012 semester in South Korea on the Teach and Learn in Korea (TaLK) program.
- **Cassi Greenlee** (accounting) spent the fall 2011 semester at the École Supérieure de Commerce (IPAG) in Nice, France.
- **Morgan Halane** (English) spent the fall 2011 semester at Lancaster University in England.
Remained committed to preserving affordability for all students. During 2011/12, the center reached out to students with limited financial resources through efforts including more heavily promoting and assisting students in applying for the Gilman Scholarship, Freeman Asia Scholarship and other scholarships targeted toward students with financial need.

Expertly responded to crisis to ensure student safety. In collaboration with the University of Kansas Office of Study Abroad, the International Center arranged for the evacuation of 16 MU College of Education students from Capri, Italy, because of sequential earthquakes in the Bologna and Parma regions. The center also worked with the MU Counseling Center to make counseling services available to students following this dramatic experience in a foreign country.

The International Center is committed to building international connections on the MU campus and in the community. Through its website, social media, events and outreach programs, the center offers countless opportunities to get involved with MU’s global campus.

CAMPUS OUTREACH
The International Center regularly offers a wide variety of workshops to educate the campus community about important issues. Workshops offered during 2011/12 included professional development for study abroad returnees, optional practical training for international students, Fulbright opportunities for faculty and international employment-related issues, in collaboration with the Office of Human Resource Services.

In addition to its own informational outreach work, hundreds of internationally-focused cultural events and activities take place across campus at MU throughout the year. The center supported the campus’ vibrant cultural life by providing publicity assistance and direct financial support for several international student organizations, including the Missouri International Student Council; the Thai, African and Muslim student associations; and others.

FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS
Through the center’s American LIFE program, Columbia and mid-Missouri residents befriend new international students for at least the first semester after his/her arrival in Columbia, meeting at least once a month for activities of their choosing (meals, coffee, sporting events, family celebrations, etc.). American LIFE provided friendship matches with more than 110 students and community members during 2011/12. In January 2012, approximately 60 people, including American LIFE volunteers, participated in a program to enjoy food and traditional American contra dancing.

K-12 OUTREACH
The Kaleidoscope outreach program facilitates educational presentations by MU international students and scholars to elementary schools and other community organizations. Over the past year, the International Center arranged visits to Parkade Elementary School, Tiger Place Retirement Community and Hallsville High School. These visits not only enrich the host organizations, but offer the MU international community the chance to learn more about daily life in the U.S. away from the university environment.