OFFICE OF
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Annual Report 2010-2011
Table of Contents

Mission Statement, Vision, and Goals .................................................................3
Staff .....................................................................................................................4
Services and Programs ......................................................................................5
International Students Services .................................................................5
International Students Programs and Events ..............................................6-8
Study Abroad Programs ................................................................................9-11
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Mission Statement

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is an expanding, doctoral-granting institution committed to preparing graduates for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in the global community. We are dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, creative activity and service. Our supportive, multicultural learning community provides undergraduate and graduate students with a challenging educational experience. The university's federal designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) provides a foundation for closing educational gaps, while its strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico and on the cultural border with Latin America provides a basis for gaining national and international prominence.

Office of International Education
Mission Statement

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is dedicated to creating an inclusive community and establishing collaborative relationships across cultures. TAMU-CC aspires to enrich and educate without exclusion and foster responsible global citizenship. The Office of International Education (OIE) will promote international learning environments that embrace diversity.

Vision

Constructing a future without boundaries - building bridges in a changing world.

Goals

- Increase our understanding of international issues.
- Create an international community.
- Provide our international students a sense of belonging.
- Give our students greater opportunities to participate in study abroad programs.
- Encourage our faculty to actively participate in faculty-led programs.
Dr. Paul Meyer, Vice Provost

Ana Billeaux, Director

Karin Griffith, Coordinator, International Student Services

Blanca Ordner, Study Abroad Advisor
Services and Programs

The Office of International Education (OIE) has two distinct functions:

1. Provide services to all international students on campus, whether enrolled in the English as a Second Language International (ESLI) or already TAMUCC students, and
2. Provide study abroad opportunities to all TAMUCC student population.

International Students Services
Karin Griffith
The international student population has been steadily growing since ESLI was established in 2005.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, OIE served 1830 international students as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2010</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2011</td>
<td>644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer I 2011</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer II 2011</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The International Student Services Coordinator (ISSC) has seen the international student population grow from about 90 students when she started 8 years ago, to over 650 students Fall 2010. The ISSC ensures that every student has proper health insurance, that each student’s F-1 status is maintained, provides academic and immigration advice, helps students transition from ESLI to TAMUCC, provides Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT) information and advice, and submits all OPT applications to the Department of Homeland Security.

The ISSC issued all I-20’s to direct entry and ESLI students through Spring 2011. Effective Summer 2011 ESLI staff began issuing I-20’s for their students. The ISSC was instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition during this time, providing support and instruction to ESLI staff to help them familiarize themselves with SEVIS. She continues to provide support to the ESLI office.

Karin consistently joins webinars that increase her knowledge in international matters and plans to attend conferences that are of interest to her in order to stay current with immigration issues that affect international students.
International Student Programs and Events
Ana Billeaux

OIE provides programming to improve transitioning from the English as a Second Language International (ESLI) to TAMUCC. The office plans and conducts New ESLI Student Orientations each Fall, Spring, and Summer semester. These orientations include presentations from Student Affairs, Housing (Hurricane evacuation plans), Camden Miramar, Health Center, Counseling Center, University Police Department, Immigration information, Library services, and some student associations available on campus. In addition, OIE in conjunction with New Student Programs, organizes and conducts orientations for ESLI graduates ready to enroll in TAMUCC. These orientations included presentations from Student Affairs, Housing, Career Services, Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA), and Academic Advising at the undergraduate and graduate levels. OIE will continue to provide New ESLI Student Orientations as well as orientations for ESLI graduates coming to TAMUCC.

Keeping in step with Momentum 2015, specifically, Imperative III, “Instill Global Perspectives into the Academic Life of the University,” OIE organizes a variety of educational and cultural programs each year to bring internationalization to the forefront of the campus.

Information meetings
OIE hosted informational meetings for international students to review immigration rules, tax information, employment limitations, and other pertinent information. These meetings will continue to occur. This office works closely with ESLI to schedule the meetings and ensure attendance. Immigration and visa information is particularly of interest to international students who are close to graduation. Local immigration attorneys offer their expertise free of charge and students will greatly benefit from the information these attorneys can provide.

Meet and Greet

Meet and Greet events started in Spring 2009. OIE hosts Meet and Greet, an event to welcome new and returning students. These events are open to all faculty, staff, and students, and representatives from the different colleges and/or services are at hand to
offer students information and support. This event will continue to happen at the beginning of each fall and spring semester.

*International Education Week*

International Education Week (IEW) provides opportunities to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. International students were highly visible on campus during this week and through their participation in a number of activities, TAMUCC students, faculty and staff were able to be more aware of the international population on campus and the benefits of internationalization.

International Education Week 2010 was celebrated November 15 through November 19. The Colombian Student Association, the Coastal Bend African American Student Association, and the Turkish Student Association performed during this week. The “Colors of the World Exhibit” included once again artifacts from the Texas Museum of Asian Cultures and the Institute of Hispanic Cultures. It also had displays from Turkey, courtesy of the Turkish Student Association; from different African countries, provided by Dr. Peter Kuntu-Mensah, Dr. Bilaye Benibo, both from TAMUCC, and some community individuals, Ms. Abiola Shodipo, Ms. Amaka Agriga, and Mr. & Mrs. Amoako-Baah; the Coastal Bend Filipino-American Association, and the South Texas Alliance of Indigenous People.
Parade of Nations

On April 18, 2011 OIE presented the Third Annual Parade of Nations. Students from the Corpus Christi African Student Organization, the Middle Eastern Dance Club, India, Turkey, Vietnam, and Latin America performed for a large and enthusiastic audience. For the first time this year we had special guests from the community. The Band Libra, the Filipino American Association, and the South Texas Alliance of Indigenous People participated.

And this year, the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia sent performers to take part of this event. In 2010 the Consulate sent guests to enjoy the show and this time Indonesian dancers performed two beautiful dances to everyone’s delight.

TAMUCC is an active member of Study Texas. This is a group of educational and training organizations in the state of Texas, whose broad purpose is to connect international students and professionals with quality education and training. Members include community colleges, public and private colleges, universities, and professional English language schools. Spring 2011 TAMUCC was the lead writer for an Cooperator agreement to expand Texas recruitment of students in China, India, and Korea. While Study Texas did not receive this grant, it was a great experience for OIE and it gave us an opportunity to work closely with other Study Texas members. It also opened the door to have TAMUCC materials and information displayed in an Education Fair in Azerbaijan. Togrul Quliyev, a TAMUCC graduate from Azerbaijan, represented the institution. Future opportunities include participation in virtual education fairs for student recruitment as well as attendance to educational fairs, ICEF conferences, and more.

The International Education Council (IEC) was particularly busy this academic year. A subcommittee was formed to work on issues related specifically to ESLI students and their transition to TAMUCC. IEC members and a few faculty members formed this subcommittee and provided recommendations that when implemented will contribute to a smoother transition and better service for the international students.
Study Abroad Programs
Blanca E. Ordner

Study Abroad Programs continue to expand across the world. Students have gone to Tanzania, Honduras, China, Nicaragua and New Zealand individually and have inspired other students to travel to the southern hemisphere as well.

This year TAMU-CC/SAP collaborated with a TAMU-K Faculty-Led Program to Martinique as part of the TAMUS Transient Study Abroad Program partnership. Both institutions offered a TAMU-CC graduate student with a disability (visual impairment) an international life-changing experience and the opportunity to gain greater understanding of other people, culture, enhance language skills, expand career opportunities and much more. Further, the student offered other program participants’ opportunities to increase their awareness and appreciation of diversity, and in doing so, broadened and enriched the international experience for all participants.

Below is the student who traveled to Martinique with TAMU-Kingsville - second from the right – the student also plans to enroll with TAMU-CC’s Maymester EDCI 2012 program in Costa Rica.

With the current economic climate, faculty members persevered and successfully contributed to the internationalization of our students by leading programs abroad related to a course or a major field of study: Theatre, photography and art history. These experiences contribute to recruitment and service.
The Reciprocal Exchange Agreements with Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá, Colombia) and Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (Querétaro, México) are due to expire 2013. The State Department continues to enforce travel warnings and recommendations that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to either one of these countries. TAMU-CC has hosted three (3) Colombian students as part of the REEP agreement.

The TAMU-CC Fulbright Review Committee interviewed and submitted a student’s application for an English Teaching Assistantship in Sri Lanka to The Fulbright U.S. Student Program – academic year 2011-2012. However, the Committee received notice early spring that the candidate had not been recommended for further scholarship consideration.

### Student Statistics for Academic Year 2010-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Gender Total</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Scholarships awarded</th>
<th>Faculty-led; or Independent</th>
<th>Class Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M F</td>
<td>W H B Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>2 2 4</td>
<td>3 1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>2 2 4</td>
<td>2 1 1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>4 8 12</td>
<td>8 3 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>1 1 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>1 1 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>1 1 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florence</td>
<td>2 11 13</td>
<td>8 5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>London</td>
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<td>13 2 1 1</td>
<td>13</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martinique</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
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<td>20 34 54</td>
<td>37 13 3 1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
<td>51 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Maintaining a list (name, address, phone number, e-mail) of interested students, including any who had inquired by phone or in person. Followed up with them at a later date; and
• Holding informational meetings for students, to generate interest in their program.

2011-2012

In order to keep up with a changing world and increasing student demand, the University continues to invest in off-campus programs. The Study Abroad Programs is planning new additions for academic year 2011-2012 and looks forward to continuing student involvement. Two official programs will take place during Maymester at the Soltis Center in Costa Rica, and two other programs are in progress at the present time for second summer session in Spain and Costa Rica.

Fulbright Review Committee interviewed and submitted an application as a candidate for study and research in the field of Psychology and Philosophy to The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program – academic year 2012-2013. Future goals for Study Abroad Programs are to promote and advertise Fulbright extensively; to recruit a Fulbright scholar to serve on the Committee as a mentor; and to provide applicants with assistance on projects for national competition.

The Study Abroad Programs continues to build the website and provide essential information to faculty, students, staff, academic advisors, parents and visitors.