Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we begin a new year, we have heightened expectations for a successful and rewarding path over the coming months. It is also a time to reflect on our journey of the last year. Overall, 2007 was a banner year for global engagement and understanding at USF. Student participation in education abroad reached a record high with over one thousand students, a 56% increase from 2006, engaged in a variety of academic programs ranging from summer and semester programs to research and service learning in the developing world. Non-traditional education abroad programs have grown significantly with more students expressing interest in applied research projects, internships, and service learning. Last year also witnessed a wider variety of disciplines represented among students studying abroad with new programs in Architecture, Women’s Studies, the Patel Center for Global Solutions, and ISLAC.

This edition of USF International celebrates students’ multiple and varied experiences as ambassadors to the world. In every case, the voices of the student’s best describe the enormous impact their experience abroad has had on their personal and academic growth. Again and again we hear: “a life changing experience,” “the best months of my life,” “the best decision of my college career”. The four USF alumni from the College of Business featured on page 14 offer another facet of the importance of study abroad—a workforce increasingly defined by global connectedness requires competency in cross-cultural communication and a deep understanding of global issues.

In keeping with our global mission, we are extremely pleased to welcome the Confucius Institute to USF. With a community and university-wide effort, USF became the first university in Florida to receive approval for a Confucius Institute. We look forward to enhancing our global outreach with our Confucius Institute partner in China, Nankai University, to offer new courses in Chinese language and culture. A grand opening celebration is planned for Spring 2008. We hope you will join us as we recognize another milestone strengthening USF’s reputation as a globally engaged university.

Dr. María Crummett
Dean of International Affairs

Congratulations 2007 Graduates!

International Affairs congratulates the Fall 2007 graduates. Among the graduating class are 120 international students from 44 countries representing a range of colleges and degree programs across the university. Each semester, International Services holds a sash ceremony and awards each international student with a sash representing the flag from the graduate’s home country. Students wear the sashes during the formal USF graduation ceremony.

The 2007 international student graduates after receiving their graduation sashes
On October 9, 2007, USF was honored to welcome back one of its own: U.S. Ambassador Eric M. Bost. Ambassador Bost earned a Masters degree in Special Education in 1985. He was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa by President George W. Bush on July 20, 2006.

During his visit to USF, coordinated by International Affairs, the College of Education, and the USF Alumni Association, Ambassador Bost took part in campus tours, an open forum, classroom discussions and a reception. Throughout his visit he answered questions and informed USF students, faculty and staff about issues facing South Africa. These issues include unemployment, racism, AIDS, and education.

National unemployment rates in South Africa are high, ranging from 25-40%. Issues of racism still linger, even after the abolishment of apartheid. According to Ambassador Bost, “Investment is so important because of the ripple effect. For people that go to work, they tend to send their kids to school, put money back into the economy and don't commit crimes.”

The fight against HIV/AIDS is the single largest issue facing South Africa. Five to six million South Africans suffer from this devastating disease. The U.S. has responded by sending approximately $850 million in relief to the country via the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and has pledged to fund an additional $600 million during 2008.

Ambassador Bost’s mission encompasses four primary responsibilities: strengthening the partnership in the fight against HIV/AIDS, helping with the challenge of high crime rates, promoting trade relations, and assisting South Africa’s efforts to establish comprehensive education for all. Ambassador Bost emphasized that South Africa is in a transitional period and is making great strides towards progress on all fronts.

**Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.**

-Nelson Mandela
Wales

“If I would have known it would be the best decision of my college career, I would have gone on many more study abroad trips.”

-Lee Smith
College of Business Program

Brazil

“From my travels I learned how differently people can carry themselves, ways in which the whole country operates as one big family. I also realized how lucky I am. Brazil’s economy is struggling and as an economics and finance major, I hope to make a difference one day.”

-Pedro Medina
ISLAC Study Abroad Program

Kenya

“I cannot begin to explain how life-changing the trip was and how I will hold the experience as one of the greatest of my life.”

-Peter Young
Peace Corps Masters International Program
Opportunities Abroad

China

“Service learning in China was an experience of a lifetime. It re-ignited my passion and appreciation for school. The trip taught me so much about myself and I appreciate what I have, especially the opportunity to receive an education.”

-Samantha Rigby
China Summer Service Learning Program

Australia

“There’s no other way I can say it; my study abroad experience was the best six months of my life! Going there was something I have wanted to do since I was a little girl and finally going was a dream come true. I left a piece of my heart in Australia and I have every intention of going back.”

-Tabatha Raj
Summer Study Abroad Program
“Study abroad is a wonderful experience. I studied abroad at Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan. It has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. I had a lot in common with the students and people I met while studying at Kansai Gaidai. Like me, many students were leaving their comfortable environment and trying to learn a new language (I was studying Japanese, they were studying English).

I didn’t know much about Japan (forget the movies you’ve seen) until I actually spent time observing every-day life. For example the bento lunch (a typical Japanese lunch) takes a lot of effort because the Japanese go into great detail decorating food. Another interesting observation was a mother with three children, all riding on one bike. The mother had the baby strapped to her chest, the second youngest sitting in the front basket and the eldest in the back basket.

After studying abroad, it’s like a veil has been lifted from my eyes. I can see a whole new world, and I owe that all to the study abroad program, and especially to Dr. Orr. I don’t know how I could have gone without the help from his scholarship. The money has made a deep impact in my life, providing me with an experience I will never forget.”

-Ashanda Finegan
German and International Studies

“I am pursuing a career in psychology, but I have always enjoyed learning about other cultures. In school, I was absolutely absorbed with Asian customs. I was quite fond of the National Geographic collection that my parents subscribed to, often reading articles about Asia many times over. When my studies commenced at the University of South Florida, I explored Japanese philosophy and culture through the practice of martial arts.

I received the Orr Scholarship for the Kansai Gaidai University Asian Studies Program during the Fall Semester of 2007. The scholarship provided me with the necessary funds to fulfill a lifelong dream. The program was an experience of a lifetime. It greatly increased my language skills and gave me an international perspective applicable to my field of study. While there, I studied group dynamics and experienced first hand how it works in the proper setting.

Upon my return, I began my senior dissertation through the Psychology Department’s honors program. This is the first step in my pursuit to better delineate and treat commonly misdiagnosed symptoms such as anxiety, depression, and pathologies that are currently being examined by Japanese professionals. Now that I have immersed myself in the Japanese culture, the knowledge I have earned will expand my career skills as a psychologist, and enhance my professional diplomacy between colleagues here and abroad.”

-Daniel Winick
Psychology
Building a Global Presence

The 2007 University of South Florida Japan Summer Studio, under the direction of Assistant Professor Stanley Russell, convened in Kyoto from June 6- July 13, 2007. The course traced events in Japanese culture and architecture from the ancient Jomon and Yayoi periods up to the modern era. Students were assigned to render a hypothetical design for the main rail station in Kyoto. They also worked with a non-profit organization to help renovate an old building. During the five week program they undertook a comprehensive study of the cultural, technical, geographical and philosophical factors involved in the formation of traditional Japanese architecture. Students had the opportunity to visit the high-tech world of Tokyo as well as the traditional environment of Kyoto. Students were challenged to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture through field work, design projects, and volunteer work with community outreach organizations. They spent a night in a monastery to experience Buddhist culture and they stayed with Japanese families to experience everyday life in Japan. The Japan program will be offered alternate summers through the School of Architecture and Community Design.

“The program is extremely beneficial because architects need to draw from a resource of ideas when designing buildings. Being exposed to different tectonic traditions from the time that they are in school enhances this resource.”

- Stanley Russell
Assistant Professor, School of Architecture

Worldly Expressions

October 26 - December 15, 2007 marked the Homing Devices art exhibit at USF’s Contemporary Art Museum. The exhibition showcased Latin American and Caribbean artists who addressed the question of how art and artists preserve their identity within a global landscape.

Graphicstudio and the Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) have presented numerous exhibitions of contemporary art from Florida, the U.S., and around the world. USF CAM maintains the university’s art collection, comprised of more than 5,000 works of art.

“Thisana”, a piece by Los Carpinteros, a group of Cuban artists
A Strong Foundation
Established in 1998, the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC) is an interdisciplinary center at the University of South Florida. It embraces teaching, research, and service, while offering numerous opportunities for graduates, undergraduates and faculty. Students have access to top faculty members and are encouraged to expand their horizons, not only at USF but abroad. The Institute continuously works with scholars from all disciplines at the university to provide a global perspective. ISLAC sponsors and plans events reflecting the region’s rich cultural traditions. Through its numerous elements, ISLAC offers an integrated approach to learning about Latin America and the Caribbean in the larger regional context of the Americas.

Looking Ahead
As the nations of the Western Hemisphere are becoming more interdependent, ISLAC has positioned itself as an innovative academic institute. The faculty and staff produce students and international professionals for the 21st Century. ISLAC aims to be a model and leading educational institution in Florida and the Americas.

Dr. Jorge Nef, Director of ISLAC

“ISLAC provides a seamless combination of research, teaching and engagement, bringing together the Social Sciences and the Humanities to give a historical, cultural, and structural context to Latin American and Caribbean issues. This requires critical thinking where what is unique and specific can be seen in terms of the ‘big-picture’. Such reflection results in sophisticated, critical and engaged researchers and students.”

Engaging Academia and the Community
ISLAC extends its mission throughout the Tampa Bay community. Outreach includes exhibits, academic and cultural events, workshops, consultations and other efforts to promote knowledge and awareness about Latin America and the Caribbean. Yearly events include the lecture series, where scholars, such as Dr. Carmelo Mesa-Lago, distinguished Professor Emeritus of Economics and Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, and other prominent academics present ground breaking research on the region.

ISLAC also sponsors the Cultural Celebration of the Spanish Language, a two day festival of words and images, with bilingual readings of original work by renowned writers and poets. During the 2007 event, held at the Cuban Club in Ybor City, Judge E. J. Salcines, a prominent Tampa judge, received a lifelong award in recognition of his contributions to Spanish letters, culture and literature.

Judge E. J. Salcines at the 2007 Cultural Celebration
During summer 2007, Dr. Bernd Reiter, an ISLAC faculty member, and nine students traveled to São Luis, Brazil (a UNESCO world heritage site) for a month long study abroad program. Students were introduced to one of the richest cultural locations in the country. Throughout the program students studied Portuguese at the Federal University of Maranhão and took Dr. Reiter’s class, “Brazil: the Roots of Inequality.” The program provided a background to the Brazilian culture, economy, and political structure. Students also enjoyed visiting historical sites throughout the country. Two of the side trips included Lençóis Maranhenses National Park and Alcantara, one of the first cities founded during the colonial era by the Portuguese. Overall, the program provided students with a greater knowledge and understanding of Brazil and its people.

Faculty Research

Facilitating and advancing research is one of ISLAC’s main foci. The institute provides macro and micro, as well as historical, structural and cultural analyses within a regional perspective. Research efforts include the production of books and a working paper series entitled, *Cuadernos ISLAC*. The Institute’s publications are derived from its international symposia, lecture series, faculty research seminars, and the distinguished visitors program. In 2007, ISLAC launched two books: *Inter American Relations in an Era of Globalization* and *Managing Development in a Global Context*, co-authored by Professors O.P. Dwivedi, Provost Renu Khator and ISLAC Director Jorge Nef. ISLAC has also sponsored the upcoming volume *Capital, Power and Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean* edited by Dr. Jorge Nef and Dr. Richard Harris (California State University).

Educational Opportunities

ISLAC offers a Masters of Arts degree, Graduate and Undergraduate Certificates, and a Joint Graduate Certificate with Global Health. Currently, there are 20 students in the MA program, 11 students in the Graduate Certificate program, and over 40 students in the Undergraduate Certificate program.

“ISLAC is a hidden treasure at USF: The department offers many educational and involvement opportunities for students, faculty and staff. It also provides interaction with individuals from diverse backgrounds. I am currently a Masters student in Latin America and Caribbean Studies. After graduation, I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in economics.”

-Paula Lezama

Brazil and Beyond

During summer 2007, Dr. Bernd Reiter, an ISLAC faculty member, and nine students traveled to São Luis, Brazil (a UNESCO world heritage site) for a month long study abroad program. Students were introduced to one of the richest cultural locations in the country. Throughout the program students studied Portuguese at the Federal University of Maranhão and took Dr. Reiter’s class, “Brazil: the Roots of Inequality.” The program provided a background to the Brazilian culture, economy, and political structure. Students also enjoyed visiting historical sites throughout the country. Two of the side trips included Lençóis Maranhenses National Park and Alcantara, one of the first cities founded during the colonial era by the Portuguese. Overall, the program provided students with a greater knowledge and understanding of Brazil and its people.
“One of the reasons I chose the University of South Florida to pursue my MBA was the opportunity to complete the Peace Corps Masters International program. While an undergrad at Wright State University in Ohio, I’d heard a presentation by a recruiter and it sparked my adventurous nature. So after one year of course work in Tampa, I traded my laptop, class, and work schedules for a ticket to a country half a world away.

My training group arrived in Nairobi, Kenya on September 18, 2005. We were inoculated, indoctrinated and then we were off to Kitui, to begin an intense 3-month training program. Integration into the community is a large part of the Peace Corps mission, so we were each taken in by host families in the area. My Kamba tribe family, said to be the most hospitable in Kenya, made me feel at home. They helped me with my Kiswahili, showed me how to cook the local cuisine, and soon I was helping the younger kids with their homework and chores. Each day volunteers met for technical, medical, and sector specific training. Before sundown, we went our separate ways to have dinner with our families, read by flashlight and dreamt of the food we’d left behind in the states.

I was placed in Oyugis, a town in western Kenya’s Nyanza Province. I was there to help with business. My counterpart, a Luo chief, had already begun developments in the area, and I would be attached to KACREC, a multi-purpose resource center with a building that housed a seed company, small medical dispensary, library, meeting space, and a bank.

My most rewarding work was with a primary school called Brains Education Center. Most of the children are AIDS orphans, but they are bright and happy to be in school.

Another important project I was able to implement was a small school store, built to serve the local community with food staples and other products they’d have to go to town for. It affords a source of income while providing less costly supplies for Brain’s feeding program and serves as a learning opportunity for the school’s board.

After returning from my Peace Corps International program, I have a greater appreciation for all that living in the United States provides and I hope I’ve made at least a small improvement in the lives of the villagers in my adopted African home.”

-Peter Young
MBA student

Peter Young serves as the USF Peace Corps representative. If you would like information on Peace Corps, please contact him at (813) 974-4579 or peacecorps@iac.usf.edu.
Dr. Carnot Nelson in front of the Psychology Building at Hacettepe University

Dr. Carnot Nelson, a professor in the Industrial/Organizational Psychology program at USF recently returned from a Fulbright to Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey. Professor Nelson taught Organizational Psychology, Program Evaluation, and Organization and Theory Structure. Program evaluation in Turkey is in its infancy, and despite great interest there are currently no training programs. Dr. Nelson worked with his colleagues at Hacettepe University, conducting and teaching additional courses in program evaluation.

USF plans to continue the relationship that Dr. Nelson developed with Hacettepe University. An exchange agreement between the two universities will provide graduate students and faculty the opportunity to expand research initiatives. Psychology is a growing field in Turkey and the need for academics is great in this area. The universities offering psychology programs in Turkey are relatively new. The Middle East Technical University is 50 years old and Hacettepe University is 40 years old. The two universities are two of three major doctoral producing institutions in the country. In addition, the overall number of programs is growing rapidly. There are 33 psychology departments in Turkey with many starting within the last decade.

Since returning to USF, Dr Nelson is working on two research projects. The first is a collaborative research project regarding the difference between supervisor-subordinate relationships between the U.S. and Turkey. The second involves comparing implicit personality theories between American and Turkish cultures.

For additional information on the Fulbright program or to apply, visit: www.cies.org/.

USF congratulates the 2007 Fulbright recipients. The Fulbright Program provides individuals with the opportunity to observe each others’ political, economic, educational, and cultural institutions and to exchange ideas that impact the welfare of the world’s inhabitants.

Faculty:
- Dr. Darlene De Marie - Education - South Africa
- Dr. Harry Vanden - Government & International Affairs - Brazil

Students:
- Elizabeth Cooper - Anthropology - Malaysia
- Margeaux Chavez - English as a Foreign Language - Germany
- Kendrick Hornack - Business - Germany

“While I was anticipating a good experience, the experience was far more rewarding than I could ever have imagined.”

-Carnot Nelson
2006 Fulbright Scholar

Save the Date!

On February 28, 2008 in the College of Education TECO room, from 4-6 p.m., learn more about the Fulbright program and hear from USF faculty members on their Fulbright experience.
In February 2007, nine Masters of Public Health students in the Executive Public Health Practice Program traveled to Panama for an intensive field experience program. The students studied the public health system, and sociocultural, and historical aspects affecting public health in Panama. “The trip was fantastic,” said Somer Burke, Academic Coordinator for the Public Health Practice Program.

Also attending the research program were mid-career professionals from Florida—dentists, physicians, mental health, occupational health and health education specialists. The program was hosted by Dr. Arlene Calvo and Program Manager Aracely Quintero at the USF Health Panama Office, along with Dr. Ann DeBaldo, Associate Vice President, International Programs, USF Health.

The group visited a range of health care settings including a children’s HIV clinic, a social security clinic, and several Ministry of Health clinics.

USF Health: Making a Difference

Patel Undergraduate Scholars

During summer 2007, three USF students participated in the Patel Undergraduate Global Scholars (PUGS) research project in the Dominican Republic. PUGS offers hands-on experiences for undergraduate students who want to become involved in applied research. Students contribute to projects by providing background information necessary for implementing solutions to problems related to potable water provision, sustainable economic activities, and migration.

“The two weeks we spent in Santo Domingo were amazing. We were given the opportunity to live with families and experience the everyday culture, work with a UN recognized NGO, and meet representatives from both the Dominican government as well as international agencies. In short, we were able to see a country and experience a culture so completely different from ours. I hope that the Patel Center will continue their research and networking on the island and many more students will be given the same opportunity to learn and experience as much as I did.”

~Chrissy McNally
Spanish

“As one of the first participants in the undergraduate research program, the Patel Center provided me with a once in a lifetime experience. During the six week program I learned not only about conducting research and the potable water situation in the Dominican Republic, but also about the Dominican culture. During our two week immersion in Santo Domingo, I made lasting relationships, improved my language skills, and experienced a different way of life. The experience I gained from the program will be an asset to me academically, professionally and personally.”

~Kayla Bannister
Spanish

“What started as research on the potable water and sanitation systems in the Dominican Republic became one the most interesting experiences of my life. This program gave me great insight into the work of non-governmental organizations that concentrate on helping the needy. My research focus was an investigation of the different programs established by the Dominican government to help solve their potable water and sanitation issues. Even though the Dominican government and the NGOs are working on potable water problems, there is much work that needs to be done in various underserved communities.”

~Fatima Diaban
Bio-Medical Science, Minor in Public Heath
Six USF undergraduate students traveled to Thailand in June 2007 to attend the 16th Annual Conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE). Attending the event at Ramkhamhang University in Bangkok were Stacey Owiti, Alecia Peacock, Amanda Plimpton, Yuliana Ramirez, Lianne Stewart, and Lee Taylor.

While in Thailand, the students presented original research derived from their studies in a course entitled, “Women in the Developing World”, offered during Spring 2007. The students traveled with Dr. Linda Lucas two weeks prior to the conference. They visited sites related to the economic development of the country, as well as AIDS support groups and education centers. They traveled to Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, and the University of Chiang Mai. The students addressed research questions including: What is the status of women in Thailand? How is HIV/AIDS impacting the Thai workforce? What is the role of Buddhism in daily life?

The trip was sponsored by International Affairs, the Department of Women’s Studies, the Patel Center for Global Solutions, and the Office of Undergraduate Research.

“It was an amazing learning experience for me. I was able to ride through the Thai countryside while observing students bond with each other, attend a Thai language movie, and engage with students to learn about their own lives and research. I was very proud of the students’ accomplishments.”

-Linda E. Lucas
Visiting Professor
Department of Women’s Studies

“I value knowledge much more since hearing all the intelligent women here who created knowledge in their fields and then made a difference in the world.”

-Lianne Stewart
Interdisciplinary Social Science

“I have never been out of Florida or thought I would be a part of such an important event as an international conference.”

-Alecia Peacock
Sociology

“I am a pre-med major and this trip has enormously expanded my ideas about what I plan to do with my education.”

-Stacy Owiti
Pre-Med
Women in Business: Setting a Global Standard

International exposure is critical in the modern workforce. Students who obtain international experience are better equipped for cross-cultural communication, flexibility, and the ability to deal constructively with differences. Four alumni from the College of Business share how their international experiences at USF aided their careers.

Janet Nichols
-Senior VP
Wealth Management
Citigroup Smith Barney
Class of 1990

“As a Senior Vice President with Citigroup Smith Barney, I am currently responsible, along with my two partners, for the management of approximately $800 million of investment assets for individuals in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean. I travel extensively for both business and pleasure, and in recent years have enjoyed two USF travel abroad trips, one to Italy and one to Greece.

My international travel experiences have led me to new markets, new clients and prospects and allowed me to become part of several international organizations.”

Anabelle Pinto
-Senior Director
World Wide Marketing
Cisco Systems, Inc.
Class of 1992

“I have lived and studied in several countries. My experience in the Master Program in Dauphine University [Paris] was life enduring. I was able to experience a different education system, where there are more notes, theory and teacher presenting vs. the MBA in the U.S., where there is more of preparing up front, more interaction and presentations. I have held international positions for the last 15 years, and the international program not only opened many doors for me, it was a personal enriching experience that has unique value in everything I do, particularly in leading virtual teams.”

Carolina Menezes
-VP, Business Development
Swingvote
Class of 1999

“While studying at USF, I participated in an internship program through the Center for International Business, where I researched and evaluated opportunities to expand local businesses internationally. I then participated in a trade mission to the UK. I found my passion to build businesses in new markets and expand their operations globally. Four years ago, I began to build a financial technology firm from scratch. Swingvote was then founded, growing from 2 to 60 employees and is now partially owned by Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley. I am extremely proud of my education at USF and how the diversity of thoughts I was exposed to brought me new perspectives and expanded my opportunities.”

Nady Gustave
-Management Associate
Citigroup
Class of 2006

“As a USF alumnus, my most treasured memories were traveling to various countries while being exposed to different cultures. While at USF, I completed a six-week study abroad trip to Xalapa, Mexico, interned at the Fulbright office in Madrid, Spain, and at the U.S. Dept. of Commerce in Cape Town, South Africa. My International Business degree from USF and international internships have led me to a rewarding and challenging career with Citi Operations and the Technology Management Associate Program.”
USF Global Ambassador - To Mumbai and Back

“I served as the USF Global Ambassador to India during the summer of 2006. While volunteering at the United States Educational Foundation in India (USEFI) in Mumbai, I gained valuable experience and exposure in the fields of academic advising. I can say that this was my most thrilling and rewarding experience at USF, the sheer gratification of which still stands unchallenged!

Throughout the internship, my principal goal was to inform prospective Indian students about the ample opportunities to study in the U.S., including undergraduate research, various leadership activities and career options that are available to the students, especially at USF. Not only was I glad to share my experiences with them, but also be open to offer and receive constructive feedback. Through this position, I aspired to steer these students in the appropriate direction, and give them the same positive experience I had from studying abroad at USF.

The internship position called for a multitude of activities. Although my principal responsibility was that of student advising/counseling, I was able to get a feel for various other positions in my wide spectrum of duties. Becoming a mentor for students interested in higher education was challenging. While guiding prospective as well as admitted students, I promoted not only a U.S. education, but also USF. I provided constructive feedback on their academic choices, reviewed their applications and supporting documents, and encouraged potential students to genuinely consider the varied and diverse opportunities provided by a U.S. education. The Indian students felt that they could identify with a student more readily than a counselor. Overall, I feel that they found a genuine resource from whom they could obtain all their needed information and timely guidance.

The advantages of this internship are numerous, including, leadership experience, friendship and service. I had extensive opportunities to work with international students of all academic levels. The people skills I have gained throughout the internship continue to be an asset. I am grateful to the USF Global Ambassadors program as well as USEFI Mumbai for giving me this unique lifetime opportunity.”

-Ojas Rawal

Major: BioMedical Science; Minors: Business Administration, Public Health, and BioMedical Engineering

International Trendsetters

Universities around the world are beginning to understand the importance of an internationally diverse student population. International students provide universities with a wide array of ideas, cultures, and promote intercultural understanding. They also spark new research endeavors that strive to solve national and international problems.

International student enrollment has increased considerably in the past few years. According to the Institute of International Education, the number of international students enrolled in universities in the United States has increased to a total of 582,984 during the 2006/07 academic year. USF is no exception; currently there are 1,470 international students enrolled and the number is expected to increase. Out of 1,820 universities with 1,000 or more international students, USF ranks 72nd with regards to international student enrollment. With a diverse student body, exceptional educational opportunities, and cutting edge research, USF provides a first class ticket to a global education.
On December 11, 2007, USF and Nankai University signed an agreement to establish the first Confucius Institute in the state of Florida. The institute aims to assist the educational and business communities in Tampa Bay to develop closer ties with China. Additionally, the Confucius Institute provides the opportunity to enhance Americans’ understanding of Chinese language and culture. The USF institute will offer Chinese language instruction and incorporate Chinese culture into an array of classes including business, public health, and the arts.

According to Vice Provost Ralph Wilcox, “The establishment of the Confucius Institute is part of our strategy for becoming more globally engaged. It’s of tremendous benefit to USF, the economy of Tampa Bay, and the state of Florida. The Confucius Institute will help develop a greater understanding of China, enhance our population’s capabilities of doing business in the Chinese language, while maintaining closer ties with the nation that’s expected to become the world’s largest economy.”