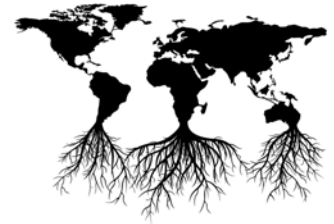


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# INTERNATIONALLY SPEAKING

Official Newsletter of the University of Kansas Medical Center Office of International Programs and the International Affairs Advisory Committee



## Features

*International Health Week*

*International Student Orientation*

## Faculty Activities

### **Want to Contribute?**

The staff of *Internationally Speaking* would like to know about any faculty, staff, or student international activities, experiences, and programs. Please send information electronically to [jreagan@kumc.edu](mailto:jreagan@kumc.edu). Be sure to include the title "Internationally Speaking" in the subject line of the email. We also welcome photographs and suggestions for feature articles.

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## Welcome to *Internationally Speaking!*



As a new academic year begins, the Office of International Programs and the International Affairs Advisory Committee looks back and plans for the future. *Internationally Speaking* has been absent for some time – we hope to get back to two issues per year – Fall and Spring.

Sadly, the Office of International Programs lost our Associate Director Julia Shaw to cancer on 7 June 2011. There was a memorial service for Julia on 13 September in Battenfeld Auditorium. The office staff misses Julia very much, as do the many at KUMC with whom she interacted through the years.

## **Other news from the Office of International Programs**

After Sarah Hiatt left to open a landscaping business in Indiana with her husband, Erin Cromer joined our office. Erin processes our F-1 student visas and J-1 visas for visiting scholars. She also advises all incoming degree-seeking and short-term international students and visiting scholars.

We were fortunate to be able to lure Jalana Robinson away from MU in Columbia to become our new Associate Director and immigration specialist. Jalana processes all H1 visas for the Medical Center and advises our international employees.

Any faculty, staff or students who would like to submit information/articles with an international flavor should contact Judith Reagan, Director, Office of International Programs at [jreagan@kumc.edu](mailto:jreagan@kumc.edu).

We hope you enjoy this Fall issue of *Internationally Speaking*.

## International Health Week – 2011

Sponsored by the International Affairs Advisory Committee, the Office of International Programs, the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health and KU Area Studies Centers, the second annual KUMC International Health Week was held 11-14 April 2011.



**International Showcase posters on Day 1 of the International Health in the School of Nursing Atrium.**

On 11 April, 78 senior and graduate students from the Schools of Health Professions, Medicine and Nursing presented posters on their international health experiences. The School of Nursing Atrium was filled with students, faculty and

staff discussing academic, clinical and cultural experiences. Immediately prior to the Showcase, the top 3 medical students' abstracts were presented to faculty, staff and students. Their prize ribbons were attached to their posters.

On 12 April, a panel of internationalists discussed "The Reality and Challenges of Delivering Medical Assistance to Developing Countries." David Cook, PhD, Associate Professor in Health Policy and Management in the School of Medicine and Associate Vice chancellor for Outreach KUMC moderated the panel of five:



**Panelists Wickstrom, Comminellis, Racela, Girod and Morsch discuss their many years of experience in developing countries**

Nicholas Comminellis, MD, MPH; Founder, President and CEO, Institute for International Medicine (INMED); Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine, UMKC.

Doug Girod, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Otolaryngology and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, KUMC.

Gary Morsch, MD, MPH; Founder and President, Heart to Heart International.

Antonio S. Racela, Jr., MD; Founder, Medical Missions Foundation and World Outreach Foundation Kansas City.

Betsy Wickstrom, MD; Department of Maternal and Fetal Medicine, St. Luke's Hospital System; Co-founder and Board President, Maison de Naissance.

The panel discussion was broadcast to the Lawrence and Wichita campuses

On 13 April, three groups of senior nursing students who traveled to Malawi, Honduras and the Dominican Republic for short-term electives presented their experiences. While at their respective sites, the students conducted population assessments, made home visits, and



**Andrew Pirotte, author of one of the top 3 abstracts, displays his poster and prize ribbon**



**Vick Hicks, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Nursing, KUMC, introduces senior nursing students who traveled to Malawi.**

worked in clinics, orphanages and rural settings

On 14 April, Jeffrey Colyer, MD, Lt. Governor, State of Kansas; International Medical Corps, and Volunteer Clinical Assistant Professor, Plastic Surgery, KUMC, delivered the International Health Week Keynote Address. Dr. Colyer spoke on “Experiences with the International Medical Corps: Delivering Medical Assistance to Developing Countries.” Dr. Colyer’s speech dovetailed perfectly with



**Allen Rawitch, PhD, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Professor of Biochemistry, introduces Dr. Jeffrey Colyer.**

the panel discussion on Day 2 and was a fitting culmination of International Health Week. Following his talk, Dr. Colyer was able to stay a bit longer and talk with a number of students.

The Third Annual International Health Week is already in the planning stages for April 2012.

## International Student Orientation

The Office of International Programs held the 2011 International Student Orientation on 12 and 13 August. The goal of the orientation each year is to include informative presentations and activities to familiarize students with the campus, faculty and peers as well as provide cultural activities. This year’s orientation welcomed 25 students from the countries of China, India, Saudi Arabia and Taiwan.

Dr. Barbara Atkinson, Executive Vice Chancellor and Executive Dean of the School of Medicine welcomed the students and expressed the importance of international students at KUMC and in the Kansas City community.



**2011 International Student Orientation participants**



**Students participating in the “My House” activity**

Thursday morning started off with the “My House” and “Amazing Race” activities. “My House” is a unique way for students to introduce themselves and get to know their fellow international students. Each student is given a large Post-it note and markers. The students are instructed to draw their house or a house that holds special meaning. After the drawing is complete, each student describes their house and a little about

themselves and their culture. The members of OIP also participate in the activity.

The popular and exciting “Amazing Race,” tailored after the television show, is how students learn to navigate the campus by completing tasks and getting new clues from each station to continue on the race.

This year, the winning team was awarded a prize that included a KU koozie, candy and a free drink coupon from QuikTrip. One of the more popular stops in the competition is the photograph of the students with JayDoc in the Office of Graduate Studies.

The afternoon began with presentations by the department of Counseling and Educational Support Services. Two education specialist, Jen Dolson and Brigitte Hofmeister, discussed the available campus resources for students and created a friendly face for the department. Dr. Jim Dugan emphasized the fact that it is okay to ask for help in times of need. Next, students were given the opportunity to explore U.S. Classroom Culture through comical Youtube videos and via a panel discussion led by current international KUMC students. The panel members included Nairita Roy, originally from India, Hemant Chavan, originally from India and Lei Qiu, originally from China. The



**Students posing with JayDoc in the Office of Graduate Studies during the Amazing Race activity.**

incoming students were able to ask pertinent personal and academic advice to help with adjustment to KUMC. Other topics discussed at orientation dealt with immigration matters, culture shock and U.S. health care. Each student left with a goodie bag full of donations from businesses around the Kansas City area.

Friday's activities kicked off with the Dykes Library Orientation, led and coordinated by Lynn George. Students were introduced to technological information and the library system at

KUMC. The presentations included Library Resources, Plagiarism, EndNote, Enroll & Pay, Angel, myKUMC and Campus Security.

On Friday evening, the KUMC community welcomed the incoming students at the International Student Reception. This event was held in Francisco Lounge and was open to everyone. The Indian and Chinese Associations prepared dishes from their respective countries. Card games and yard games were offered for entertainment. It was a great way for the incoming students to socialize with current students and scholars on campus plus eat some free food! Unfortunately, the trip to City Market on Saturday morning was cancelled due to the extreme Kansas City heat and humidity.

The Office of International Programs wishes to especially thank all who volunteered their time and efforts.

## Faculty Activities

### Thai Scholar Writes PhD Dissertation Proposal at KUSN

Thunyamol Suriyanimitsuk, Ph.D. Candidate at the Faculty of Nursing, Burapha University (BUU) in Chon Buri province, Thailand, spent 6 months at the KU School of Nursing to write her PhD dissertation proposal under the supervision of SON

Professor Phoebe D. Williams, PhD, RN, FAAN. Thunyamol returns to Thailand this September, and will continue to work on the implementation of her research at BUU with Dr Williams and her dissertation committee. A second Thai PhD candidate at BUU currently is also engaged in a similar proposal-writing process with Dr. Williams.

Dr. Williams was a Visiting Professor at BUU in 2010, and she worked with faculty and students as part of her sabbatical engagements. She also conducted cross-cultural health care research with co-investigators in Thailand, and their poster is being presented in Hong Kong this September at the *Fifth Pan-Pacific Nursing Conference and Seventh Nursing*