

In this Issue:

1
Inauguration
Day

2
Students
Travels out-
side the US.

3
Joint Ph.D
Program in
Civil Engi-
neering
&
International
Visiting Pro-
fessors

4
Globaliza-
tion Awards
&
Calendar of
Events

News from the Dean for International & Border Programs

Inauguration Day from International Students' Perspectives

Perhaps like some if not most readers of *International Briefs*, I was fascinated by and focused on the inaugural events this past Tuesday, January 20th. The following day, Inside Higher Education, published an article based on the observations of International students who were there. For the most part, these students were attending colleges and universities in or close to Washington, DC. They viewed all the proceedings from the same vantage point as most of the more than one million others who attended the inaugural; from somewhere in or around the National Mall. Herein some of their thoughts and reflections.

A Sudanese-born student pursuing a master's degree in government from Johns Hopkins University seemed more intrigued and taken by the solemnity of the occasion than the revelry. He was, according to the article, "...struck by the peacefulness and joy of the ceremony—two qualities he said are sorely lacking in his war-torn country. To quote the student,

The peaceful transfer of power in American is amazing to witness. A lot of people around the world are paying attention to what is going on in America. How the American people go through the process to choose a leader is remarkable. It was so peaceful. You can say what you want to convince others. It was so interesting to watch that, in the midst of this intense debate, the American people can come together. The excitement of that should never be taken for granted or underestimated.

A German student intern at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation noted that President Obama "...is just as much of a hero to her friends in Germany as to the American students she has met." He went on to say

We have a saying in Germany that basically says, someone who washes plates can move up to become a millionaire. This means, basically, that with your own strength you can build up your own existence. I think that's a part of Obama's appeal around the world. Growing up and becoming president, he did that on his own.



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And a Spaniard from the Spanish Mission of Foreign Affairs who will begin graduate school later this year perceived the same symbolism as many of us—“who see it [the inauguration of Obama] as having shattered a glass ceiling for African-Americans.” She was most impressed by the outpouring of hope and faith she witnessed both among the throngs on the Mall as well as those who attended the pre-inaugural festivities at the Lincoln Memorial. In her words

I think in my case, what I'll remember most from today and from this election is that I'm in a country that 40 or 50 years ago would not allow an African American to sit on a bus. Now, you guys have chosen an African-American to become president and he has taken office. I think that is remarkable. Only in America—this is the one time when you can really apply that. I respect that, and I am very impressed.

It was not only the international students themselves who were so engaged and taken in by the inauguration, but it was their parents as well. Another international student from Spain was quoted as saying: “My mother called me five times today. She was like ‘Where are you?’ ‘What are you doing?’ ‘Are you taking pictures?’ ‘Take pictures and send them to me!’”

And the same German student quoted above said: *My family is very excited about me being here. They called me about four times already before the inaugural even started, asking me where I was going to be. My dad called when I was in front of the Washington Monument and he said ‘I think I can see you!’ I said, ‘No, I don’t think you can. There are so many people.’ Also, my friends are all very excited... They all know it’s a historical event. It’s great to be here.*

The excitement felt by so many international students was indeed heartening. Their sense of being a witness to history; their perception of what is so enduring and remarkable about our system of government; their appreciation for how we as Americans can so bitterly disagree (during the campaign) but in the end come together—this is what international education is all about. Unfortunately, as the January 22, 2009 “Sound Off” contributor ([Las Cruces Sun News](#)) who wrote what follows made so very clear, not everyone shares the sense of history and the optimism expressed by so many of our country’s international students and visitors.

I find it extremely disturbing and disgusting that our public schools forced students to watch the inauguration against their will. This is a perfect example of the schools’ attempt to pass on to all children their agenda, values, morals and political beliefs.

Everett Egginton

NMSU Student Travel Outside the U.S.

NMSU faculty members and staff members **planning a trip out of the U.S. with NMSU students** (or supervising or financing individual students traveling alone while enrolled at NMSU, such as for research, conferences, club activities) are responsible for identifying and reporting any NMSU student who arranges to go outside the U.S. under affiliation with NMSU, even for day trips to Mexico. At a minimum the Office of Study Abroad will arrange travel insurance and collect the Study Abroad Agreement for Resident Student Travel Programs that tracks students who are traveling abroad. Detailed information is available at <http://studyabroad.nmsu.edu/Pages/Employees.html>

NMSU – University of Chihuahua (UACH) Joint Ph.D. Program in Civil Engineering

On December 2, 2008, a delegation of administrators from UACH including Rector Raul Chavez Espinoza visited NMSU for the purpose of formally signing an agreement for the NMSU-UACH joint Ph.D. degree program in Civil Engineering. NMSU was represented by Interim President Waded Cruzado and Interim Provost Robert Moulton as well as Dean Castillo and other Engineering faculty and administrators.



Signed Joint Civil Engineering Ph.D. Degree Program at NMSU on December 2, 2008” Those present are left to right: Dean Steve Castillo, Interim Civil Engineering Department Head Ricardo Jacquez, Interim NMSU President Waded Cruzado, UACH Rector Raul Chavez Espinoza and UACH Dean of Engineering Oscar Herrera Lagunas



This agreement establishes a joint Ph.D. program where qualified students would take courses at both universities and receive their degree upon completion of all requirements. Both universities would share in the teaching of all required courses and research programs will be determined individually based on each student’s needs. The program is scheduled to start during the fall 2009 semester. Some specific program details are still being worked out.

International Professors visiting NMSU

NMSU faculty members planning to **invite a J visa exchange visitor professor, research scholar, short-term scholar, specialist, or student to NMSU** may access up-to-date information about J-1 policy at http://studyabroad.nmsu.edu/Pages/J-1_EXCHANGE_VISITORS/PURPOSE.html . Dr. Paul Huntsberger is the Responsible Officer for NMSU for the Exchange Visitor Program that allows certain activities under J visa status as designated by the Department of State. Ms. Mary Jaspers is an Alternate Responsible Officer, but she will primarily handle only sponsored degree students required to obtain a J-1 visa, or serve as backup when and if Dr. Paul Huntsberger is on extended leave. Study Abroad & Exchange Visitor Services is housed in International & Border Programs Room 238 Garcia Annex. Mary Jasper's is now located in the Admissions Office UG, Educational Services Building. Because NMSU must comply fully and completely with Department of State regulations governing the J Visa Exchange Visitor Program, only Dr. Paul Huntsberger and Ms. Mary Jaspers are authorized to provide advice and prepare documents to obtain the J visa and to approve employment under the J visa program. Great care and open communication must be maintained between the Responsible Officers and NMSU faculty and staff members planning to invite scholars so that correct categories are chosen to bring in scholars and so that scholars maintain their legal status while at NMSU.

If you are a faculty member who is interested in inviting a visiting professor to NMSU, please call 6-5107 or send an e-mail message to phuntsbe@nmsu.edu to schedule an appointment.

Globalization Awards

The Office of International and Border Programs (OIBP) is now accepting Globalization Award nominations. OIBP provides up to three awards per academic year to NMSU faculty, staff, students, and individuals from the community. The award recognizes individuals whose actions and deeds promote international understanding, cooperation involvement, and development. For more information about the awards call 646-4528 or to submit nominations, please contact Ida Baca at MSC 3567 or at ibaca@nmsu.edu, indicating who you want to nominate and describing in one or two pages what the person has done and/or is doing internationally to warrant the award and include a copy of their CV. Nominations will be accepted through March 13, 2009. If you would like to review the list of past recipients, please go to our web site at: <http://www.nmsu.edu/~ip/pages/GlobalizationAward.html>.


Calendar of Events

February 9th 10 am-3 pm– Study Abroad Fair at Corbett Center lower level; please encourage your students to stop and learn about study abroad opportunities.



EDITORIAL NOTE:

THIS NEWSLETTER IS RELEASED THE BEGINNING OF EACH MONTH. THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NEWS ITEMS IS THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH. PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS WHICH ARE PLANNED AND/OR ARE SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE. THIS NEWSLETTER IS INTENDED TO SHARE INFORMATION AND TO INFORM OTHERS ON CAMPUS OF UPCOMING AND PENDING ACTIVITIES, TRAVEL, VISITORS ON CAMPUS, ETC. FOR THIS REASON, ITEMS WHICH ARE SUBMITTED FOR ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE WILL ONLY BE UTILIZED IF THEY HAVE SOME RELEVANCE TO FUTURE ACTIVITIES. PLEASE MAKE SUBMISSIONS TO [CIP-ADM@NMSU.EDU](mailto:cip-adm@nmsu.edu). IF YOU WISH TO REVIEW OLD ISSUES OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS ISSUES FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS CAN BE FOUND ON THIS SITE.



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