



FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Emmanuel Oritsejafor

NCCU 2020, North Carolina Central University's strategic plan, has identified international education as one of its priorities (goal: 5.2) for improving the academic climate at the university. In this regard, I encourage faculty, students, and staff to vigorously pursue this goal through academic scholarship, curriculum development, international partnerships and community engagement. The joint commitment to implement and achieve this goal will change the educational landscape of this great institution. We are at a juncture in which our international education efforts will define the quality of education and the extent of student success at NCCU. Therefore, the Office of International Affairs (OIA) looks forward to working with faculty, students and staff in strengthening the academic climate at NCCU, with the strategic plan serving as a framework for this vision.

OIA Retreat

The Office of International Affairs annual retreat this year was a half-day program to identify the unit's goals for the 2010-2011 academic year.



International Eagles Meet and Greet, Min Zhang

The fourth annual International Eagles Meet and Greet was held in the area of the Office of International Affairs in the Lee Biology Building on Sept. 23, 2010. The annual meet and greet provides students, faculty and with staff an opportunity to meet and get to know each other at the beginning of the academic year. The international

students said this was a great time to meet with other students informally from disciplines outside of theirs. Min Zhang is featured above identifying her country, China, with a star.

International Education Week

International students at NCCU celebrated the 2010 International Education Week (IEW) by making presentations on their countries. Kingsley Ezesebor from Nigeria reflected on his country's achievements 50 years after it gained independence from Britain. Priyanka Khandelwal shared India with a cross section of faculty staff and students.

Center for Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST)

In this issue, we feature the CREST Institute. Professor Branislav Vlahovic is director of the center, and reports on international collaboration between NSF-CREST Center and NASA-URC Center.

The National Science Foundation Center of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST), the Computational Center for Fundamental and Applied Science and Education and NASA University Research Center for Aerospace Device Research and Education all have a strong international component.

During the last year, 15 visiting faculty and 23 graduate and undergraduate students were supported. Academic programs were enhanced by full stipends and tuitions (ranging from \$25,000 to \$35,000 per student) provided by these centers to the following departments: physics; environmental, earth and geospatial sciences; mathematics and computational science; chemistry; biology; BRITE; BBRI; Informatics, and Nursing.

The support was provided to the following international graduate students: Aren Arakelyan, Arshavir Petrosyan and Toros Torosyan from Armenia; Bernice Gakpo, Frederick Aryeetey, Frederick Ayivi and Mawufemor Kudadze from Ghana; Yonas Birhanemeskel from Ethiopia; Pisupati

"The annual meet and greet provides students, faculty and with staff an opportunity to meet and get to know each other at the beginning of the academic year".

Vijayashree from India; Lokendra Chand from Nepal; Adewale Akinfaderin, Adetoye Adekanmbi, Adeyemo Adetogun, Ayudeji Kuponiya, Ochije Henry Ikechukwu, Tolulope Agbaje, Jubril Davies, Motunrayo Akinpelu, Sochima Isioma Aliboh and Lydia Ayanwale from Nigeria; Syed Gilani from Pakistan; Sanja Knezevic Antonijevic and Todor Antonijevic from Serbia, and Serign Lowe from Spain. Supported undergraduate students are: Sumuna Mwimbi from Democratic Republic of Congo; Arnaud Yombi of Gabon, Kenneth Nduashey and Jerry Ogallo from Kenya; Rohit Vijayaraghavan from India; Naima Stennett from Jamaica; Isha Dhakal from Nepal; Akinyeme Ajani from Nigeria; Alpha Bundu-Kamara from Sierra Leone; Fredrica Larsson Lombard from Sweden, and Isvar Cordova from Venezuela.

The international collaboration is also important for advancing research programs. Supported were visiting research professors Julio Cesar Jacobo Berles, Marta Estella Mejail, Dario Mitnik from Argentina; Areg Meliksetyan and Karen Ohanyan from Armenia; Olga Bondareva from Belarus; Yangan Tang and Shiqiu Zhu from China; Zdenko Miksik, Branko Pivac and Ivo Slaus from Croatia; Pierre Arroucau from France; Igor Filikhin and Vladimir Suslov from Russia; Milan Dukic from Serbia; Mantile Leslie Lekala from South Africa, and Nguyen Ngoc Hieu from Vietnam.

To further improve NSF-CREST and NASA-URC Center development, new collaborations were established. One is with Instituto de Astronomía y Física del Espacio (IAFE), of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dr. Dario Mitnik visited NCCU and worked on NASA computer code for astrophysical calculations. The collaboration will also enhance the development of the CREST Low-Energy Nuclear few body project. Encouraged by the IAFE collaboration, we also initiated collaboration with Department of Computation

Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales Universidad, also in Buenos Aires. To enhance our research CREST and NASA projects on cooperative autonomous mobile robotic systems, Dr. Julio Jacobo and Dr. Marta Mejail visited NCCU for a week. We identified a common research interest that will enhance several research robotics projects and strengthen academic programs. By the beginning of the next summer we expect to complete development of small robots needed to support the curriculum for high schools and the university student Summer Venture program. In addition, the collaboration could also result in productive applied and industrial projects. We agreed to prepare pre-proposals for two potential grants: one on license plate recognition for speeding cars to be submitted to the Department of Transportation, and one for long-range face recognition.

An additional new collaboration is with the London Centre for Nanotechnology, is a forefront science and technology center of University College London and Imperial College London. The broad research area of the center and its multidisciplinary nature (chemistry, physics, materials, medicine, earth sciences and numerous engineering disciplines) creates an opportunity for all of our faculty members and students to find an overlap in research programs. The

collaboration already has significantly enhanced our research on development of nanoscale materials for advanced optoelectronics devices (high efficiency nanostructure based photovoltaic cells and infrared photodetectors); research on biochemical sensors (development of a highly sensitive and selective biochemical detector); and research on control of optical propagation by metallic nanostructures.

To further enhance the NASA project on neutrino detector, we also extended collaboration with the Kamioka Liquid-scintillator Anti-neutrino Detector collaboration on purifying the scintillator detector for solar neutrino project. The NASA Center supported Dr. Markof during two summer months while she was preparing for four weeks of research at KamLAND and a visit to Japan. She performed measurements of the solar neutrino flux properties and oscillation behavior. The NASA-URC was the main organizer of the Third International Conference on Nuclear and Particle Physics with CEBAF at Jefferson Lab. The conference was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, Oct. 3–8, 2010, with many prominent researchers in medium energy nuclear physics in attendance. We are now preparing conference proceedings that will be issued as a regular volume of the journal *Fizika*.

The NSF-CREST and NASA-URC centers are also active in supporting faculty summer research and attendance of international conferences. Faculty have attended and presented at conferences in Croatia, Armenia, Argentina, France, Ukraine, Austria, Mexico, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. The international collaboration made our research projects stronger. In the past 12 months, the CREST and NASA centers have published 53 papers in peer-reviewed journals, and were awarded additional \$2.5 million in grants.

“The international collaboration is also important for advancing research programs...To further improve NSF-CREST and NASA-URC Center development, new collaborations were established.”

Office of International Affairs GLOBAL RETURNS

Participation of 52 international faculties and students from 23 countries introduced our students to broad culture and expanded international flavor at NCCU.

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY

The Office of International Affairs would like to thank faculty who make strides towards internationalization.



Dr. Ismail Abdullahi: Ethiopia

In this issue, we salute the following professors:

Dr. Ismail Abdullahi is a professor in the School of Library and Information Sciences. He has worked as a library consultant in Denmark, The United States and the United Kingdom. He has published two books and numerous chapters in books and articles. His research interest includes global library and information science, management and leadership, internationalization of library and information science education and diversity, and intercultural issues. Dr. Abdullahi serves on advisory panels worldwide. In addition to his accomplishments, he has a passion for sharing the world with his students. A graduate of the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Denmark, Dr. Abdullahi has, for the past three years, led a study-abroad program to Copenhagen, Denmark. He is truly an international leader.



Dr. Lei Guo: China

Dr. Lei Guo, assistant professor in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, focuses on tai chi to help improve the health and wellness of the NCCU community. He has created a tai chi class, which he teaches during the summer. Dr. Guo has published a book and nine articles on subjects ranging from tai chi to rheumatoid arthritis. He is currently working on a study about using tai chi to improve balance among older adults.

CAMPUS INTERNATIONALIZATION

Faculty and Staff Global Initiative Grants and Lecture Series

Faculty play a prominent role on any university campus with regards to internationalization. This is why the global initiative grants in the past two years have been targeted to faculty with the expectation that their international experiences will be manifested in their research and course development. The following faculty members received grants for international projects/collaborations or for travel to present papers at international conferences:

Dr. Candace Bailey

Department of Music

Dr. Beverly Allen

Department of Physical Education and Recreation

Dr. Jennie De Gagne

Department of Nursing

Dr. Kimney Kim

Department of Physics

Dr. Kisha Daniels

School of Education

Dr. Marco Hernandez Cuevas

Department of Modern Foreign Languages

Prof. Sujay Devarayasamudram

Department of Nursing

Dr. Claudia Becker

Department of Modern Foreign Languages

Dr. Gabriel Peterson

School of Library and Information Sciences

Dr. Philliph Mutisya

School of Education

The focus of the academic year's lecture series also shifted from visiting scholars to NCCU faculty. Faculty who had received mini-grants from the OIA made presentations to faculty, staff and students. The following lectures and seminars have so far been hosted:

Dr. Candace Bailey made a presentation to faculty, staff and students on Sept. 14, 2010. Her presentation, "Gendered Language in the Academy and Guides to Academic Research," was well received. She had earlier attended and presented at a conference of the Royal Musical Association in London.

Dr. Beverly Allen gave her presentation on Nov. 23, 2010, on recreation, sport and dance to the campus community. Her presentation in Doha, Qatar, was at the International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance.

International Visitors

NCCU hosted Professor Valiant Clapper, deputy executive dean, College of Economics and Management Science at the University of South Africa (UNISA) on Oct. 11, 2010. Professor Clapper met with select faculty from the School of Business to discuss partnership opportunities between UNISA and NCCU. NCCU hosted Professor Jimmy Washburn Calvo from the Universidad de Costa Rica on Nov. 19, 2010. His visit was sponsored by the School of Law to discuss plans for a partnership between the two universities. The School of Law currently has a faculty-led program to Costa Rica.

Model United Nations

March 17-20, 2011

THE 2011 NCCIIIE/NGA MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

Holiday Inn-Bordeaux, Fayetteville, N.C.

Theme: Promoting Global Awareness Programs in Higher Education

NCCU will be participating in the N.C. Consortium for International and Intercultural Education (NCCIIIE) Model United Nations simulation, hosted by Fayetteville State University.

With democracy on the rise throughout the world, NCCU and other participating institutions at the Model United Nations will attempt to identify ways in which students could be trained in the areas of diplomacy and good governance. The Model United Nations offers an excellent opportunity to provide practical experience with democratic practices for students. Liberian Studies Conference

March 31 – April 3

The 43rd Annual Conference of the Liberian Studies Association will be hosted by NCCU.

Conference Theme: "Community Engagement as an Imperative for Nation Building in Liberia: Prospects and Strategies"

After about 14 years of civil war (1989-2003), Liberia is rebuilding its infrastructures and institutions. Reconstruction in post-conflict Liberia involves many kinds of community-building in the social, political, religious, artistic and economic sectors. Strategies in community engagement build lasting relationships that help to

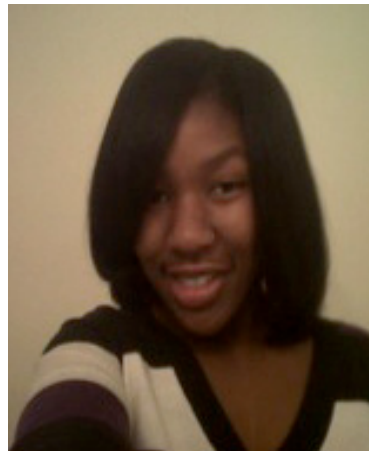
"I still remember feeling the warm embrace of the Ghanaian sun as I descended the stairs of the plane. I knew a life-changing adventure awaited me."

develop a collective focus for community institutions. In this interconnected world, this community engagement should involve Liberians at home and in the diaspora community, as well as people and organizations of other countries.

To this effect, the 43rd Annual conference of the Liberian Studies Association will address various dimensions of community-building across all disciplines, including social sciences, humanities and physical and biological sciences.

Study Abroad

NCCU Receives its first Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for Study Abroad



Oluwaseun Ogunnoiki

Oluwaseun Ogunnoiki, a junior majoring in art, is the first NCCU recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad. She is studying at Brock University in Canada through the International Student Exchange program (ISEP).



Amarachi Anakaraonye in Ghana, Summer 2010

A student's testimonial on study abroad

Amarachi Anakaraonye, Duke in Ghana, Summer 2010

I still remember feeling the warm embrace of the Ghanaian sun as I descended the stairs of the plane. I knew a life-changing adventure awaited me. I was not aware of how much the culture would enhance impact my perception of myself and my place in

society. Duke in Ghana is an educational opportunity that allows participants to develop cultural awareness through scholarly pursuits. With each adventure, I explored facets of my character that I had never uncovered before.

Traversing a 120-foot forest canopy walk in Cape Coast is one of many experiences I'll never forget. Not only did I face my fear of heights, but I realized that fears are posed against individuals for self-enlightenment and maturity. One must never be con-

tent with fear and let it be a barrier to experiencing life. I beheld numerous examples of worldly beauty by embarking on exploits of adventure, which included standing in a flowing waterfall, photographing baboons on a reserve and hiking into a bat cave. My eyes will forever be swollen from the natural beauty of Africa.

Not only are my eyes forever enlarged, but my heart grew along with the knowledge I gained. During numerous participant observation sessions at a local school, I was touched by the accord of the student body. Despite the religious, linguistic, and cultural differences that could have resulted in dissent, the student body remained unified. The students' unity culminated into a research thesis that allowed me to observe how the school's religious and linguistic classes enhanced the students' tolerance. Never have I encountered children with so much determination to succeed despite the socioeconomic barriers of their environment. I will forever carry the determination of the students within me as I embark on accomplishing my future pursuits.

Duke in Ghana has opened my eyes, mind, heart and soul to the wealth of knowledge the world has to offer. Likewise, I have a duty to contribute to the world as a scholar and aspiring humanitarian by using all the resources it swells with. I aspire to return to Africa in the future for further research and service. Duke in Ghana was an enriching opportunity that provided me a solid foundation for scholarly research. Not a day has or will ever go by that I do not reflect on fond memories of peace, joy, and contentment in the warm Ghanaian sun.

Coming Events Mark your Calendar

Study Abroad & Scholarship Presentations

Lee Biology Building Room 202
First Thursday of each month:
10:40–11:40 a.m.

Campus deadline for application for 2012-2013 Fulbright Student Program

Lee Biology Building, Room 103
Sept. 12

NCCU International Eagles Meet and Greet

Sept. 20, 10 a.m. – noon