International Briefs

Office of International and Border Programs

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Live, Learn and Thrive.

In this Issue:

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News From the Dean for International and Border Programs

Bologna Process and Transatlantic Collaboration

For two days, March 22-23, 2007, 16 European and 16 North American international education leaders met in Amsterdam to explore the current state and direction of the Bologna Process. I was privileged to have been among the invited North Americans. The symposium, entitled "*The Bologna Process: Advancing Trans-Atlantic Collaboration in a Changing Higher Education Landscape*," was sponsored by NAFSA: Association of International Educators and the European Association of International Educators (EAIE). Designed as a dialogue among colleagues, the symposium is part of NAFSA's ongoing effort in 2007 to provide useful, practical information that policymakers on campuses can use to respond to the rapidly changing European higher education environment.

In my column this month, rather than focusing on the details of the Bologna Process*, I will look at Bologna's role in advancing international mobility. This is the symposium session to which I had been assigned as a respondent to my European counterpart—Maria Kelo's—presentation. Maria Kelo is a senior officer at the *Academic Cooperation Association (ACA)*, an independent European organization dedicated to the management, analysis and improvement of education and training co-operation within Europe and between Europe and other parts of the world. The symposium, in general terms, focused on the state of Bologna and what to expect in the coming years, with specific sessions that looked at

- commonalities and differences in systems on both sides of the Atlantic
- Bologna's role in advancing international mobility (which I discuss below)
- Bologna's tools to promote transparency
- The status of Bologna implementation

The effect of Bologna on trans-Atlantic cooperation in international higher education

Two clear messages emerged from the session: *Bologna's role in advancing international mobility*.

First, to date, there is not enough data to measure the impact that Bologna has had on mobility. This is true for different types of student mobility: intra-European Union, European Union/rest of the world, horizontal mobility (short-term and semester programs), and vertical mobility (full degree programs). In Europe, there is an obvious need for collecting and disseminating statistics on higher education mobility at all levels (comparable to the *Open Doors* series on U.S. higher education mobility published annually by the Institute for International Education).

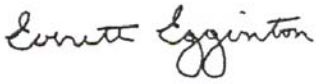
Second, the Bologna reform of degree structures and subsequent increases in transparency, readability and rationalization of study programs is bound to bring more mobility within the European Union and between the European Union and the United States. Ninety-seven million students are currently enrolled in higher education institutions worldwide. In 2000, 1.7 million studied outside of their own countries; an anticipated 8 million are projected to do so by 2025.

At present, most of the incoming mobility in European countries is from other European countries and not from the United States nor from non-European countries. On the other hand; most of the outgoing mobility from Europe to non-European countries is indeed directed to the United States. And with the growing acceptance of the Bologna three-year bachelor's degree among graduate schools in the U.S.**, there will, in all likelihood, be more and more European students in U.S. master degree programs in the near future.

Student mobility, either through short-term (horizontal) or long-term (full degree programs) study abroad programs, will surely continue to grow worldwide. As I have pointed out in a previous column, U.S. student mobility, i.e. study abroad, is growing rapidly and will continue to do so, especially if the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007 is signed into law (currently under consideration in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representative). On the other side of the Atlantic, the Bologna Process has established student mobility as one of its major goals, indeed going so far as to predict that an academic degree without an international experience will be a less worthy degree. However, the distance between the goal (study abroad as an expectation) and the reality (the percentage of students who actually study abroad) is still significant both in the U.S. and in Europe. There is much to be done—both in the U.S. and in Europe—to enhance study abroad and ensure that university graduates understand and comprehend the incredible and wonderful diversity of the world in which they live.

*The reader might look at the following source for background information on the Bologna Process: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/highereducation/EHEA2010/BolognaPedestrians_en.asp

** According to the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), the percentage of U.S. institutions that do not accept three-year Bologna-compliant degrees went down from 29 percent in 2005 to 18 percent in 2006.



New Aerospace Engineering Dual Degree Program

A new undergraduate dual degree program is currently being negotiated between NMSU's Mechanical Engineering Department and the Faculty of Engineering at the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua (UACH). The program will allow approximately 20 students from the UACH to take the first 6 semesters of course work at UACH and complete the last three semesters at NMSU and received a dual degree from both UACH and NMSU in Aerospace Engineering. Although the program has not been formally approved, numerous meetings at NMSU and UACH have taken place over the last 5 months and both universities have agreed to the final curriculum which will be required from students entering this degree program.

Those working on this program from NMSU are: Thomas Burton, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department Head, Ronald Pederson, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Associate Department Head, Ida Baca, Associate Dean for International & Border Programs, and Imelda Olague, NMSU Civil Engineering Ph.D. candidate who is also a faculty member of the UACH Faculty of Engineering. Those working on this program from UACH are numerous, but the effort is being headed by Oscar Raúl Herrera Lagunas, Director of the Faculty of Engineering, Juan Carlos Sáenz Carrasco, Secretario Académico, and Omar Hinojos Carrasco, Secretario de Planeación. Although the program design and agreement will be finalized within the next month, UACH students are not expected to begin arriving at NMSU until the Fall of 2008 at the earliest. For further information about this program, please contact Tom Burton at 646-3501.

NMSU and UACH negotiating dual degree program during May 8 and 9 in Chihuahua

NSF-New Mexico - Chihuahua Partners for Innovation Project

Throughout the 2006- 2007 academic year the members of the New Mexico—Chihuahua Partnership for Innovation have actively worked on the progress of their respective projects. A conference was held at the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) campus Chihuahua in April, 2007; each of the teams delivered a PowerPoint presentation that depicted their goals, progress, and future outlook. A summary and description of each partner institution's progress is provided below.

Centro de Investigación en Materiales Avanzados (CIMAV) Project: Develop a kit that will be used to determine the sex gender in reptiles, birds, and mammals. Prominent companies have recently demonstrated an interest in the efficient sex identifying kit developed by the CIMAV. The team has concluded the technical training phase of their project and is currently researching new product applications for the use of their kit. Research findings have determined that this technology is not only useful as a "sex gender determination method" in crocodiles but can also be utilized on other species. A testing kit prototype is in the works and a patent registration in Mexico; and a patent registration application by PCT.

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMT) Project: Develop a water filtration system to remove bacteria and viruses. NMT plans to install filtration systems along the border in Mexico to study the efficiency of their work and prepare the new technology for industrialization. The 5-student team, under the direction of Dr Peter Anselmo, has engaged in technology and market research, experimental design, discussions with potential funding sources, and interfacing with students from partner schools as they pursue the overall goal of development of a technology-based market plan for commercialization of SMZ/ZVI. They have also participated in the physical and experimental designs associated with the wastewater and drinking water tests. New Mexico Tech students have also gained valuable contacts and experience interacting with students from the PFI partner universities and extremely valuable, hands-on experience with the commercialization of innovations.

Joint Project Between New Mexico State University (NMSU) and Instituto Tecnologico y de Estudios Superiores (ITESM) Project: Develop the commercialization wind energy and technology along the Border. The NMSU team business students are determining the political and economic requirements for developing small (5-10MW) wind farms on Mexican ejidos (cooperative farms and ranches) that promote local economic development. This project includes assisting SEMARNAT (Mexican Environmental Secretariat) on establishing guidelines for wind farm implementation in Mexico. In February 2007, the NMSU wind team completed a windpower analysis based on three years of monitored data for the NASA White Sands test facility in Doña Ana County. The student team is now moving into the commercial planning development phase and will develop a pro forma financial analysis for the NASA wind site. Completion of the construction work for the project was completed the last week of March, 2007. Giselle Lujan, from the ITESM team, is conducting the cost analysis to develop the wind tower in the Chihuahua campus and the future economic feasibility of the same.

The American Wind Energy Association approved a poster presentation from the NMSU and ITESM wind energy student teams on Borderlands wind energy development. The poster will be presented at the Windpower 2007 conference held in Los Angeles, CA in June, 2007.

Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez (UACJ) Project: Develop GIS software for local real estate agents use in Ciudad Juárez.

The UACJ team has created a business plan for the first College Enterprise within the UACJ to sell their GIS Software. The purpose of the research team is not only to develop a technological product for the private sector but also to develop a College Enterprise that obtains profits from the GIS Software. In addition, the Business Team has already invited members from the private and public sectors to an Advisory Committee which will provide guidance for the commercialization of the GIS Software.

Retirement of Ms. Rita Stevens

The Office of International and Border Programs would like to acknowledge the retirement of Ms. Rita Stevens, Records Specialist for International Admissions and Sponsored Students. Rita is retiring after working with our office for the past ten years. She has been a dedicated employee who will be greatly missed by both staff and students alike.

CONGRATULATIONS RITA!!

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. 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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