Annual Report

July 1, 2010- June 30, 2011
Vision

The International Center is a primary resource center of international education programs and services for the international community at the University of Utah.

Mission

The mission of the International Center is to support the academic, research, and community service mission of the University of Utah by providing opportunities for all students, faculty and staff to incorporate an international, multi-cultural dimension into their academic and professional lives.

It seeks to foster and support a positive, interactive learning environment for international students and scholars through programming and services.

It supports the concept of the global community through an international network of individuals with academic and economic ties to Utah.

It promotes institutional and public awareness of the value of international educational exchange.

Values

International educational exchange is the migration and mobility of students and scholars across borders and cultures. The International Center believes international educational exchange enhances the learning environment and better prepares students for a successful place in a global society.
The International Center Overview

The International Center is committed to the enactment and support of the internationalization goals of the University of Utah and the achievement of the strategic goals of the Student Affairs division. The Center’s focus on recruiting, welcoming, and supporting international students and scholars and creating awareness and knowledge around international topics on campus provides an ideal platform from which to increase the international character of the University.

The International Center practices a strategic planning process each year in order to align department-specific goals with the overall Student Affairs Strategic Plan. As international engagement at the University increases and the University continues to welcome increasing numbers of international students and scholars to campus, the International Center continues to grow and expand in order to meet new challenges and favorably position the University in the global market.

We serve the campus community in the following areas:

- Provide advising on immigration and intercultural adjustment matters for International Students and Scholars
  - Information, support, and services to international students/scholars with F-1 and J-1 visas.
  - Provide information on complex and changing immigration laws for departments hosting international researchers, visiting professors, or short-term scholars on J-1 exchange visas.
  - Review and process immigration documents for departments hosting international researchers, visiting professors, or short-term scholars on J-1 exchange visas.
  - Informational sessions held bi-annually for departments who host J-1 scholars
- Maintain SEVIS records for all international students and scholars (the US government’s required Student and Exchange Visitor Information System immigration tracking)
- Lead the university’s international recruitment initiatives
- Provide orientation for new Students, Faculty & Researchers
- Provide programming to support integration of international students on campus and promote connections between international and domestic populations
- Conduct outreach programs to various departments and committees to create awareness of the IC’s mission and available services
- Provide cross-cultural training programs for students and staff
- Provide support and subject matter experts for departments, staff, and others engaged in international activities

2010-2011 General Overview

The International Center continues to respond to the increasing number of international students choosing to attend the University of Utah, and the increased traffic to our visiting our office. During the 2010-2011 school year we hired a full time International Alumni Coordinator
and added a full-time Program Support Specialist focused on front line customer service support and support for the Sponsored Student Program. Additionally, in response to the continuing space challenges in the original Union building location, the International Center now maintains staff offices in two locations: our main office remains in the Ray Olpin Union building, while a satellite office was opened in the Fort Douglas area of campus.

International Center staff actively participated in professional development activities including membership in professional associations such as NAFSA: Association of International Educators, AIEA (Association of International Education Administrators) EIEA (European Association of International Education Administrators) and participation in regional and national conferences associated with these organizations.

**Increases in International Student Enrollment**

The International Center remains committed to supporting the international advancement efforts of the university by leading an international recruitment strategy effecting targeted, measured growth. The number of international students on visas continues to grow, reaching 2268 in the spring of 2011. These continuing increases in international student enrollment support the Student Affairs strategic plan objective of promoting diversity on campus by bringing students from over 120 countries to the U to learn, share and interact with domestic students.

The International Center looks forward to continuing to build collaboration with partners around campus in the coming year to support broadening and strengthening the international recruitment strategy to maintain the strong presence of University of Utah in the complex and competitive global higher education market.

*See Appendix*

**International Student Recruitment**

The International Center will continue to lead implementation of the international recruitment strategy, including continued focus on building and maintaining the Sponsored Student Program, maintenance of initiatives to recruit students throughout the world, and strong retention programs. An effective international recruitment strategy is a critical piece of the achieving the SA goal of supporting global citizenship. The presence of international students and scholars on campus provides valuable opportunities for learning and interaction among individuals from around the world, and provides many avenues for international research and exchange collaboration.

The International Center has also managed the growth of both the Kaplan partnership programs and the Sponsored Student Program. Both projects have required broad collaboration and partnership building across campus to ensure success.
The University of Utah’s Kaplan US Sino Pathways Program continued to grow in 2010-2011, with a cohort of 39 students in the Fall of 2010 and 55 in Fall 2011.

The International Center collaborated with the University College advising team to participate in recruitment and advising visits to Kaplan’s China partner centers as well as to initiate numerous advising, social, orientation, and cultural events for the USPP cohorts.

Kaplan’s Global Pathways program on the University of Utah campus also continued to expand, and the International Center continued to provide initial orientation activities in partnership with Global Pathways staff as well as immigration, housing and cultural adjustment advising as well for these Kaplan students throughout the year.

**International Visiting Scholars & Researchers**
The U.S. State Department requires that the International Center review and validate the academic and employment credentials for all visiting international scholars. During the 2010-2011 period there were 539 J-1s recorded in the system. This includes 158 students and 435 scholars.

In the spring of 2011, the International Center experienced a major transition as our long-time J program coordinator, Marilyn Owens, retired. In her place, the International Center welcomed Emily Edmonston, an experienced international education professional who will take the lead in managing the continuing growth of the University of Utah’s international faculty presence.

**Special Programs for Short-Term Visitors**
The International Center offers immigration advising and visa processing for students and visitors on short term programs with the University of Utah. Orientations, cultural programs, and campus tours are also arranged through our office for these groups.

**Sponsored Student Program**
The Sponsored Student Program (SSP) has been implemented to help facilitate the placement of students sent to the University of Utah by sponsoring entities such as foreign governments, international aid or non-profit organizations, and corporate sponsors. SSP functions as liaison between the above mentioned entities, the University of Utah and the sponsored students received by the University of Utah.

The 2010-2011 year saw impressive growth in the SSP, with an increase of nearly 53% over last year and a total of 388 participating sponsored students. The SSP added 5 new agencies to its list of partners in 2010-2011, and now works with 27 sponsoring agencies, including The Fulbright Foundation, PETRONAS, Japan Study Abroad Foundation, the Thai Embassy, and the governments of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, and the United Arab Emirates, among others.

*We serve the campus community in the following areas:*
Sponsors as well as University of Utah offices and departments can rely on the SSP coordinator to be a facilitator and communicator in the following areas:
- initial contact between potential sponsors and the University of Utah
- clarifying the processes involved in getting students enrolled with the university
- admissions process and follow-up for sponsors and university alike
- assisting in the third party billing process
- primary contact and advisor for sponsors and their students regarding any issues prior, during, and after enrollment
- resolution and explanation of housing issues

As evidenced by the items above, successful continuation of the Sponsored Student Program supports the SA Strategic Plan objective of building partnerships with faculty, staff and external constituencies to foster student development and enhance the greater community.

The International Alumni Program
The International Center has partnered with the Alumni Association and Central Development to collect international student records and those of visiting researchers, scholars, and international faculty members. A relational database allows the Center to maintain contact with the international population and to serve other institutional needs such as recruitment, networking, and fundraising.

The number of international alumni identified for addition to the Alumni database increased to 4,000 this year, with an additional 13 Country Contacts identified for a total of 27. These are individuals who have agreed to be the primary point of contact and assistance in their country for the University of Utah. The International Alumni program also supports 4 University of Utah International Alumni clubs in India, China, Taiwan, and Europe.

The most active International Alumni Club to date is the Utah European Association. In June 2011, a successful Alumni reunion was held in Portugal, with alums from all over Europe coming together with University of Utah staff to enjoy the beautiful city of Lisbon.

The International Center continues to build the Alumni communication platform through Facebook, regular email communication, and access to online university publications such as Un/Bounded and the Continuum Magazine.

Orientation & Outreach Programs
The International Center provides a comprehensive orientation program for new international students at the beginning of the semester and orientation programs on an as-needed basis for newly-arrived scholars and their dependents. The International Center is ideally positioned to provide for the unique orientation needs of newly arrived international students and scholars, including immigration understanding, cross-cultural adjustment support, introduction to new culture and language, opportunities for connections and integration, and more.
In the fall of 2010, the International Center embarked on an ambitious initiative to design and implement an online pre-arrival orientation in conjunction with a re-design of on-campus orientation activities for the 2011-2012 school year. Through collaboration with other campus entities such as Media Solutions, the Office of Orientation and Leadership, University College Academic Advising, the initiative was achieved and the IC successfully launched the International Online Pre-arrival Orientation in June 2011. The Center then continued strategic revision and redesign of the on-campus portion of international orientation activities, with a planned launch date of August 2011. This process supports the SA Strategic Plan goals of partnering with faculty and staff to foster student development and community enhancement and utilizing research and benchmarking to evaluate services and programs and demonstrates the International Center’s commitment to collaboration across campus to effectively support international students.

**Student and Scholar Programming**

Opportunities for social and cultural integration are promoted through the International Center’s sponsorship of specific programs, monthly international student clubs, social activities, and an English class for the spouses of visiting scholars.

*The Friendship Family Program* is a program that connects international students with local families. The families invite students to participate in social activities with them, and many students and families create close and warm relationships through the program.

*The International Café* was started in 2008 to build community among international students and increase retention. Students from all over the world gather each Friday in the student Union to meet and make new friends.

*The Language Exchange Program (LEP)* matches students desiring to practice different languages together. For example, a native Spanish speaker who wishes to practice English may be matched with a native English speaker who wishes to practice Spanish. The International Center works very closely with the Language Department, specific professors (Chinese professors, Japanese professors, etc), the Study Abroad Office and student groups to expand the program. These increased marketing efforts resulted in more student participation. We will continue to promote the Language Exchange Program through language departments and other student groups.

The LEP exemplifies the SA goal of supporting global citizenship and increased international learning opportunities, as well as broadening partnerships across campus to enhance co-curricular programming.

*The International Ambassador Program* connects newly arrived international students with a University of Utah student who has been on campus for at least 2 semesters. International Ambassadors serve as volunteers at orientation and check-in and stay in touch with new students throughout the semester to answer questions and provide support for their adjustment to the US and the U. Ambassadors are required to have international interest and experience and experience with the challenges of being in a new culture and community. Applicants can meet this requirement through participating in a study abroad, extensive travel
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The Nagoya Broadcasting Network Scholarship provides financial assistance to University of Utah students wishing to incorporate an international experience into their academic program. Typically recipients of the Nagoya Broadcasting Scholarship complete international research projects.

Conclusion
The 2009-2010 year was a challenging and rewarding year for the International Center. The Center had several staff changes, including the addition of new staff and new positions, and saw an increase in many areas: numbers of students served, programs managed, and general international interest at the U. As always, the International Center continues to focus on building strong partnerships, creating collaboration, and a reputation for high quality service across campus and across the globe as we move forward in to the next year.
Appendix A

University of Utah INTERNATIONAL ENROLLMENT 2006 - 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1,579</td>
<td>(-7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1,478</td>
<td>(-6%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,712</td>
<td>(+14.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,809</td>
<td>(+7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,976</td>
<td>(+9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,218</td>
<td>(12%)</td>
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Appendix B

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>COMMITTEE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barnhart, Bill</td>
<td>International Center</td>
<td>Residency Appeals Committee, International Exchange Committee,</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>International Advisory Board, Student Fee Scholarship Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>International Commission, International Student Committee,</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>International Coordinating Committee/GOED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fogel, Jacqueline</td>
<td>International Center</td>
<td>Professional Development Committee, UAAC, Academic Advisors Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott, Julie</td>
<td>International Center</td>
<td>Student Affairs Sustainability Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swain, Chalimar</td>
<td>International Center</td>
<td>International Student Committee, International Commission,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>International Advisory Board, International Coordinating Committee/GOED</td>
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</tbody>
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