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# NDSU International Alumni E-Newsletter

N D S U A l w a y s a P a r t o f Y o u

October 2011

## Welcome! From VP Myers

Hello International Alums! My name is Evie Myers the Vice President of Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach and I would like to welcome you to our first E-Newsletter! As the VP of Equity, Diversity, and Global Outreach, it is part of my job to oversee campus-wide efforts to create a community that is actively committed to inclusion and pluralism as well as a culture of international engagement. By creat-

ing this newsletter, I hope to create a sense of belonging amongst our International Alumni as well as keep you connected to the campus. By keeping you updated and informed about diversity on the NDSU campus, we can all participate to help this campus grow into a community that is diverse, unified, and welcoming for all.

For more information:

[VP of EDGO](#)

**Vice President of  
Equity, Diversity,  
and Global Outreach**  
**Evie Myers**

## New Diversity Initiatives at NDSU

**Global Council**

The NDSU Global Council is a newly formed organization comprised of faculty, staff and community members. The NDSU Global Council will bring key stakeholders with institutional and community knowledge together to review the current state of internationalization at NDSU, develop a forward-thinking strategic plan

for internationalization, and begin the process of implementation.

**Affinity Groups**

We are excited to announce that we will be creating Affinity Groups for our Multicultural and International Alumni.

We will be creating the following Affinity Groups:

Black Alumni  
Hispanic Alumni

International Alumni  
LGBTQ Alumni  
Native American Alumni

If you are interested in joining an Affinity Group, would like to take a leadership role, or would like to start your own Affinity Group, please contact VP Myers at:  
[Evie.Myers@ndsu.edu](mailto:Evie.Myers@ndsu.edu)



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## Global Outreach in Africa: Charles Okigbo

As part of its global outreach programming, NDSU is significantly expanding its sphere of influence through new collaborative initiatives in Africa. According to NDSU's Africa representative, Charles Okigbo, Professor of Communication, who is on developmental leave in Kenya and Nigeria, "the new overtures from NDSU have been warmly received by African groups which are eager to take advantage of the opportunities NDSU presents them for mutually beneficial collaborative engagements in training, research and services to their communities."

Through the goodwill of the Office of International Programs, NDSU has signed a memoranda of understanding with universities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda. Plans are at advanced stages for close collaboration with the Uni-

versity of Nigeria, Nsukka for joint hosting of professional development workshops that will be led by NDSU professors in agriculture, communication, and human development, among others. The Nigerian partners have expressed strong interest in workshops on food safety, grants development, public speaking, speech writing, and women leadership. NDSU has considerable capacity to train in all these areas.

Evie Myers, Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach is optimistic the Africa initiatives can be sustained beyond the period of Professor Okigbo's developmental leave. "There is palpable enthusiasm about NDSU extending its sphere of influence globally into Africa, and other world regions," Myers said. "Such an extension provides opportunities for NDSU students, faculty

and staff to become more actively engaged with the international community, especially now that we are sharpening the focus of our global outreach programs."

For more information about Global Outreach at NDSU:

[Global Outreach](#)



**Charles Okigbo**  
**Professor of**  
**Communications**

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## Study Abroad in New Zealand: Kevin Niccum

My name is Kevin Niccum and I am a NDSU student who is currently studying abroad in Christchurch, New Zealand. While studying abroad, I have been given the opportunity to take a course that allows me to volunteer around Christchurch helping to clean up and rebuild after the earthquakes while also learning about different aspects of volunteering. This class has been very inspirational and has bettered my experience because of what I have been able to learn and see. In this course, I have been able to learn about volunteering and the different aspects of volunteering such as helping, caring, healing, and

connecting. By learning all of this, it has made my experience in New Zealand even more memorable because I can now think back about what I did here and know I will have left a lasting impact that will be around even after I am not. This class has also given me the chance to learn and see how people react to such a massive natural disaster. It has been amazing to see the people here willing to work day and night to help someone else, even when their own house has been destroyed. By taking this course, it has given me a stronger understanding of why people volunteer and

the different aspects of volunteering; this experience is something that will influence my decisions and I will remember for the rest of my life.

For full article:  
[Study Abroad](#)



**Photo of earthquake damage**

## A Closer Look at Life at NDSU: Shuang Shi

My name is Shuang Shi, and I transferred from a Chinese university to NDSU in the 2009 fall semester. I have had a wonderful experience at NDSU and I never regret joining this bison family. When I first got to the U.S. I was homesick and felt lonely. However, I found a sense of belonging when I was welcomed at International Student Orientation. I got to know lots of people from different countries and made friends with people

from all over the world. This is also the reason why I joined the I-CORE team for 2011 fall: I want to help more new international students and give them a warm welcome to NDSU. The Office of International Programs is like a home away from home for international students. They are ready to help and always have fun activities for us to get

involved in. For example, we have International Week, during which we can display our culture, landscape, and language to our classmates, staff and faculty at NDSU. I believe it is a good way for us to learn and grow. We also have fun trips to Chicago and Minneapolis which are provided by OIP so that we get chances to visit other states and cities.

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## NDSU Hosts Fulbright Scholar from Luxembourg

Dr. Samee Khan, Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, served as the faculty host for Fulbright Scholar, Giorgio Luigi Valentini, a graduate student of Italian descent, studying at the University of Luxembourg. Valentini spent six months working with Dr. Khan in the NDSU-CIIT Green Computing and Communications Laboratory (GCC Lab) building meta-models for cloud computing and developing resource management methodologies for cloud computing paradigms.

The GCC Lab embodies the spirit of Senator Fulbright's goal of increasing international understanding, cooperation, and peace via scholarly collaboration. The laboratory is a bi-institutional, multi-departmental initiative to bring together faculty, staff, and students of NDSU and COMSTATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan, to conduct research on making computing and communications energy efficient.

According to Dr. Khan, "Giorgio also embodied the true spirit of a Ful-

bright scholar." Having lived in Latin America and Europe as he was growing up, "he acquired an appreciation for all fellow human beings and cultures, and as a student valued their reasoning and thoughts processes." It seems that Valentini continued his ability to take the best from every experience while he was at NDSU as well. When asked to comment for this article he said, "My stay was a wonderful experience, it becomes then almost impossible to summarize it with a sentence, a quote or any observation." He went on to add "I left a piece of my heart in Fargo."

## Thanks for Donations

A special thank you to:  
**Lorraine Murphy**



Your donation has truly helped the NDSU campus and will continue to help create a community where students can learn and expand their education in a welcoming environment.

If you would like to donate to the NDSU Equity, Diversity, and Global Outreach department please use the following link with the designation Equity, Diversity, and Global Outreach.

[\*\*DONATE NOW\*\*](#)

We give our sincerest thank you for all donations made. Your donations help to transform this campus into a diverse and united community where all

can benefit from the numerous opportunities in higher education.

If any alumni are interested in mentoring NDSU students, providing internship or employment opportunities, or are interested in providing scholarships for NDSU students please contact VP Myers at:

Evie.Myers@ndsu.edu