

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Short of traveling to and living in another country, there is no better way to get to know other cultures and perspectives than by rubbing shoulders with visiting faculty, fellows, and students right here on the University of Pittsburgh campus. Foreign students enrich the classroom and campus environments, scholars from abroad share their insights and perspectives with our faculty, and guest lecturers from around the world enhance academic offerings for everyone.

Currently Pitt hosts approximately 1,100 international scholars and more than 1,700 international students, all of whom contribute to the academic life of the University.



This issue of *Int'l* is a tribute to those “academic ambassadors” who travel to the University of Pittsburgh every year, as well as to the people who make their stay possible, rewarding, and enjoyable.

Often, international visitors come to Pitt as part of a formal relationship with a foreign institution. The Center for West European Studies/European Union Center of Excellence exchange with Sciences Po, one of the leading social science schools in Europe, has brought a number of outstanding French students into our classrooms (page 18).

Not all international visitors come to Pitt to pursue a degree or to do research. For more than 20 years, the H.J. Heinz Company Foundation Fellowship has brought mid-career professionals from developing countries to Pitt for professional development, internships, and networking (page 2).

Sometimes, the training that international students receive at Pitt can help them transform important sectors of society in their home countries or regions. Alumni of the Latin American Social and Public Policy Fellowship Program hold important positions throughout the Western Hemisphere, working on key policy issues in Latin America (page 6). Graduates of the School of Law’s LLM program (page 20) are now driving development of the rule of law in some Eastern European countries.

While the academic environment is usually the primary reason why international visitors come to Pitt, the personal care and attention hosting departments or centers provide is often what leaves a lasting impression. “Forging New Frontiers through Friendship” describes how Pitt’s Center for Russian and East European Studies helps its numerous international visitors find their bearings (page 15).

In a post-9/11 world, balancing federal regulations and security requirements with serving the international student and scholar community has become a challenging task. “Going the Extra Mile” shows how Pitt’s Office of International Services (OIS) has found a way to do exactly that (page 11). OIS director David Bryan Clubb, the subject of this issue’s profile, draws on his experience in different cultures to focus on the needs of international visitors at Pitt (page 10).

Sometimes, international scholars can help close gaps in our curricular offerings. Islamic history professor Naimur Rahman Farooqi addressed his deeply felt desire to see more Islamic studies expertise on college campuses while he was at Pitt under the sponsorship of the Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program (page 25).

I hope this issue will help us all better appreciate the vital role academic ambassadors from abroad are playing in the life of our University.

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