



Building Bridges



3 December 007
Volume 2, Issue 3

Between Cultures and Countries

Dates to remember

January 7, 2008 – New International student orientation: International Centre

Cultural Nights

Thursdays, 7:00 pm
Loading Dock,
Memorial Union

Country in Focus: Somalia

From: *CIA: The World Factbook*

Location: Eastern Africa, bordering the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, east of Ethiopia



Area: 637,657 sq km (246,201 square miles) slightly smaller than Texas

Capital: Mogadishu - 1,175,000

Language: Somali (official), Arabic, Italian, English

Religion: Sunni Muslim

Currency: Somali shilling

Life Expectancy: *total population*: 48.84 years
male: 47.06 years
female: 50.69 years (2007 est.)

GDP per Capita: U.S. \$600

Literacy Percent: 38

Ethnic groups: Somali 85%, Bantu and other non-Somali 15% (including Arabs 30,000)

University of North Dakota
Office of International Programs
www.und.edu/dept/oip

International Centre
2908 University Avenue, Stop 7109
Grand Forks, ND 58202-7109

International Centre Hours

- Weekday hours Dec. 17, 07 - Jan. 3, 08 - 8:00am to 4:30pm
- Dec. 22 - 25, 07 - Closed
- Dec. 29, 07 - Jan. 1, 08 - Closed
- Regular Centre hours resume Jan. 4, 2008

Open Doors report

The Open Doors report is published by the Institute of International Education (IIE), the leading not-for-profit educational and cultural exchange organization in the United States. IIE has conducted the annual statistical survey of the international students in the United States since 1949, and with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs since the early 1970s. The census is based on a survey of close to 3,000 accredited U.S. institutions. Open Doors also reports on U.S. students studying abroad and on international scholars at U.S. universities and international students enrolled in pre-academic Intensive English Programs, based on

separate surveys. A full press kit and further details on the Open Doors 2007 surveys and their findings can be accessed at www.opendoors.iienetwork.org, and the full 100 page report can be ordered for \$59.95 from IIE Books at www.iiebooks.org.

Top ten leading places of origin of international students in 2006/2007

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1. India | 6. Canada |
| 2. China, PRC | 7. Mexico |
| 3. Korea, Rep.of (South) | 8. Turkey |
| 4. Japan | 9. Thailand |
| 5. Taiwan | 10. Germany |

Top ten leading destinations of U.S. study abroad students in 2005/06

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. United Kingdom | 6. Mexico |
| 2. Italy | 7. China |
| 3. Spain | 8. Germany |
| 4. France | 9. Costa Rica |
| 5. Australia | 10. Ireland |

Education Abroad

Study Abroad Referrals

In an effort to enhance integration between academic departments and the OIP, a referral system is being implemented for prospective study abroad students. Anyone in contact with students is welcome to refer students to our office. We appreciate your help in bringing exciting opportunities in education abroad to your students. The referral is attached and is also available at:

www.und.edu/dept/oip/html/documents/SA_Referral.pdf

Notice on Study Abroad Promotional Materials

In the field of education abroad, some organizations and universities chose to market their programs directly with academic departments. While UND students are not restricted to official programs, it is in their best interest to participate in a program that UND recognizes through official arrangements.

If your department does receive such promotional materials and would like to distribute them to students, the OIP requests that you first consult our office for more information as well as to verify the status and reputation of the program in question.

Where are UND students studying abroad for Spring 2008?

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Australia..... 15 | Ireland..... 3 |
| Cameroon 1 | New Zealand 2 |
| Costa Rica 1 | Norway 7 |
| Germany..... 4 | Spain..... 4 |
| Greece..... 6 | Sweden..... 3 |
| India..... 3 | United Kingdom... 4 |

Upcoming Events

- January 16.....Welcome Back Event
- February 6... Spring 2008 Study Abroad Fair



Country in Focus: Somalia

Population: 9,118,773

note: this estimate was derived from an official census taken in 1975 by the Somali Government; population counting in Somalia is complicated by the large number of nomads and by refugee movements in response to famine and clan warfare (July 2007 est.)

Independence: 1 July 1960 (from a merger of British Somaliland, which became independent from the UK on 26 June 1960, and Italian Somaliland, which became independent from the Italian-administered UN trusteeship on 1 July 1960, to form the Somali Republic)

Environment - current issues: famine; use of contaminated water contributes to human health problems; deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; desertification

Government type: no permanent national government; transitional, parliamentary federal government



UND THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH DAKOTA

Office of International Programs
2908 University Avenue, Stop 7109
Grand Forks, ND 58202-7109

Programming

Thursday Night Cultural Series

Dates

Spring 2008 Dates:

January 31
February 7, 14, 28
March 13, 27,
April 3, 10, 17, 24

Change of Location

Due to the continued popularity of the Thursday night cultural programs, the Office of International Programs will be teaming up with the Memorial Union during spring semester to hold the cultural nights in the Loading Dock instead of the International Centre. The Loading Dock will provide more space and more possibilities for the Thursday night set up and, most importantly, we hope it will be a more comfortable space for our guests. The series will continue to be held on Thursday nights and 7:00. The program will still be free and food will be available for \$1.00. We look forward to seeing you in the Loading Dock in January.

Thank You!!

Thanks to all of our presenters and participants for the fall cultural programs.



The Fall Semester programs ended on November 29th with U.K. night and a "UND record breaking" group reading of Shakespeare.
Photo courtesy of Pauline Stonehouse

Quiz Bowl Winning Team

The finals for the second annual International Education Week Quiz Bowl were held on Friday November 16th. We had many great teams participate this year and a tough competition. Congratulations to the winning team of: Vishnu Kanupuru, Pratibha Kumar and Anarmaa Sharkhuu!

International Students & Scholars Services

Processing Delays for USCIS

There is a significant delay for USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) processing times for most immigration and non-immigration applications at the moment. USCIS has received a significant increase in the number of applications filed. In July and August, nearly 2.5 million applications and petitions of all types were received. This compares to 1.2 million applications and petitions received in the same time period last year. This fiscal year, we received 1.4 million applications for naturalization; nearly double the volume we received the year before. The agency is working to improve processes and focus increased resources, including hiring approximately 1,500 new employees, to address this workload.

As a result, average processing times for certain application types may become longer. In particular, naturalization applications filed after June 1, 2007 may take approximately 16-18 months to process.

Advising Notes

- International students who are traveling abroad over the winter break are reminded to see an International Student Advisor as soon as possible if they need travel signatures or documents for visa renewal. Please do not wait until the day before you leave!
- Please remind students who are graduating this semester to be in contact with the International Student Advisors if they have not already done so.
- Students are also reminded to check the end dates on their documents (I-20s, DS-2019s) If the end date is this semester and students are not graduating, they must apply for an extension immediately. Otherwise, they will be out of status for continuing their studies.