OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

OINSEP 2022-2023 REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This report chronicles the various events sponsored, co-sponsored, or supported by the Office of International and National Student Exchange Programs (OINSEP) during the 2022-2023 academic year. South Carolina State University's mission is to prepare "highly skilled, competent and socially aware graduates to enable them to work and live productively in a dynamic, global society." In concert with that mission, OINSEP engages the campus community, alums, and the larger society around initiatives, activities, and events that foster internationalization, world affairs education, and overseas travel for cultural immersion and study.

There are many ways to help students experience the world. We can bring the world to them or engage them in international travel. This report highlights high impact practices (HIPs) of on-campus cross-cultural programming as well as global travel experiences. It also showcases collaboration with global partners.

On campus, these HIPs include: celebration of International Awareness Month with the annual Parade of Nations, hosting international showcases, celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, offering dance classes that celebrate global cultures, and hosting passport fairs to increase international mobility among HBCU students. On the global stage, OINSEP facilitates international travel by hosting cultural immersion trips such as the recent one to Trinidad and Tobago featured in this report. OINSEP also supports study abroad, and study away through the National Student Exchange Program (NSE). This report also demonstrates the role OINSEP plays in supporting other entities on campus that foster internationalization.

Dr. Learie B. Luke, Director



Flags of various countries at MLK Auditorium waiting on flagbearers for the 2022 Parade of Nations



Dr. Learie Luke takes a picture with Rejoice Anaele (L) and Princess Tisdale (R), winners of the Amazing Global Race during Hispanic Heritage Month



SCSU students and colleagues at the Chocolate Factory in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS MONTH
NOVEMBER 2022

Each November, South Carolina State University celebrates International Awareness Month. This tradition recognises the diversity of the countries of origin represented on campus. The student body includes scholars from at least 13 countries, while the faculty and staff hail from approximately 25 nations around the globe. This diversity enriches the cultural environment on campus and fosters a rich exchange of ideas. It also stimulates a desire for students to visit other countries for cultural immersion.

The official kick-off event for International Awareness Month occurred on November 10, 2022 with the Parade of Nations. This is a procession of national flags carried by scores of students following the crowd-thrilling beats of the Marching 101 Band, which led the parade from in front of the MLK Auditorium to the Student Plaza. This year, the students from Felton Charter School also joined the parade.







Left: Marching 101 Band leads the Parade of Nations. Center: 2022 Flag Procession on campus.
Right: Students carrying flags enter the Plaza

Thanks for Your Support

OINSEP is extremely grateful to everyone who supported and attended its events. The staff, Ms. Dominique Rolle and Dr. Learie Luke, are indebted to those who helped make OINSEP's programs impactful, including President Alexander Conyers, Provost Frederick Evans, Associate Provost David Staten, and many students, faculty, and staff across the university. We hope that our efforts will attract philanthropic supporters who will help sponsor on-campus programs as well as subsidize international trips so that more students can benefit from cross-cultural programming and international cultural immersion travel before they graduate. If you wish to make a donation, contact Dr. Luke at lluke@scsu.edu. No amount is too small.

Thanks to Our Campus Partners:

Business International Education Grant
College of Business and Information Systems
Faculty and staff
International Advisory Committee
International Students
Office of Accounts Payable
Office of Student Life and Leadership
Office of the President
Office of Title III Programs
Campus Police
Department of Family & Consumer Sciences
Felton Charter School
International Faculty and Staff
Marching 101 Band
Office of Procurement
Office of the Assoc. Provost for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost
Swahili Instructors from Tanzania and Kenya

CULTURAL IMMERSION TRIP TO TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: SPRING BREAK 2023

A group of students, faculty, and staff visited Trinidad and Tobago during Spring Break (March 5-13, 2023). They had a successful cultural immersion experience and renewed SCSU's relationship with the University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus. The group visited other tertiary educational institutions (Cipriani College of Labor & Cooperative Studies, Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business, the Tobago Tourism and Hospitality Institute), government agencies, and businesses in the country.

The SCSU and UWI students continued their collaboration on an entrepreneurial project related to exporting Trinidad chocolate. They visited the International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre (the "Chocolate Factory"), which focuses on research, training, and production of Trinitario dark chocolate. SCSU students also interacted with students from the UWI who hosted a Mini Business Expo showcasing the businesses that they have started while still in college. In Tobago, the group visited the COVE Eco-Industrial Park and was able to interact with staff and an entrepreneur whose business start-up is supported by COVE. All these experiences advanced the education of the business students, in particular, but were empowering for all students.

The SCSU delegation carried recruitment materials and tokens provided by the President's Office and the Office of Admissions for the students and hosts. Recruitment material was distributed to the students at the Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute, which is equivalent to a technical college in the U.S.

The Tobago House of Assembly sponsored two days of transportation, a luncheon, as well as a tour of historical sites, and a visit to the famous Buccoo Reef and Nylon Pool for the SCSU delegation. The Secretary of Education at the Tobago House of Assembly would like to sign an MOU with SC State to continue our cultural exchanges.



SCSU Group in front of the Parliament Building called the "Red House" in Trinidad



SCSU Delegation with the CEO of the LH Group



SCSU delegation enjoying coconut water around the Queen's Park Savannah in Port of Spain, Trinidad



SCSU delegation poses with owner and staff of Ali's Doubles after breakfast of Indian delicacies

TRIP TO TRINIDAD & TOBAGO CONT'D

One of the highlights of the visit was meeting with SC State alums in Trinidad. That interaction proved very fulfilling for our students as they got to socialize and receive life lessons from the alums. We are grateful to our partners, the University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus and the Tobago House of Assembly for their support with logistics, organization, and funding events in-country.

Cultural Immersion trips and study abroad are critical ways by which the University achieves its mission of preparing "students to live and work productively in a dynamic global society." These trips require funding to subsidize international travel so that more students can travel overseas before they graduate. We hope that alumni and others would sponsor students to go on cultural immersion trips in the future. If you wish to donate to this cause, please contact Dr. Luke at lluke@scsu.edu.

We are grateful to Dr. David Jamison (Business International Education Grant), and Provost Frederick Evans who provided funds to help subsidize student travel. Any funds that are donated will go a long way to support our students expanding their horizons through overseas travel. As President Conyers stated recently, "Sometimes, you have to go to grow!"



SCSU Delegation touring the Tobago Tourism Agency before going to the Buccoo Reef



L: The SCSU "Buccoo Reef Boys" in the Nylon Pool at the Buccoo Reef. L-R: Isaiah, Jayvion, Amaru, Derek, and Timothy (center)

R: SCSU and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute students exchange ideas and pose for a picture.



Students boarding glass bottom boat to the Buccoo Reef in Tobago



SCSU & UWI students & staff collaborate on a project to export Trinidad chocolate



SCSU students meet alums living in Trinidad
Back row L-R: Al Murray, Lou Anne Wilkes, (Dr. Luke), Adella Francis, Kevon Antrobus, Lindon Narine, and Dwayne Bourne.
Front row current students L-R:
Destiny, Keyaura, Brianna, and Savannah



INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE: TANZANIA & KENYA



Paul Omulokoli prepping the ingredients for a mouth-watering Kenyan dish.

On November 2, 2022, students and faculty from Tanzania and Kenya, which share borders, took the time to make an informative presentation on their countries at the Tanzania/Kenya International Showcase. The highlight of the Showcase was the interactive cooking demonstrations of several savory dishes including Pilau, Chipsi Mayai, Ndizi na Nyama, Andazi, Ugali, Kachumbari and stewed vegetables.

Students, faculty, and staff learned a lot about the cultures of Tanzania and Kenya and enjoyed the food immensely. The kitchen was filled with aromas from the many spices used in the dishes while Tanzanian music played in the background. The hosts also had a table display of Tanzanian clothing and other artifacts. The showcase was held in the culinary labs of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in Staley Hall. OINSEP extends special thanks to Drs. Judith Mwakalonge and Saidi Siuhi for coordinating the event.



Julie Chengula explains how to cook Ndizi na Nyama



Frank Ngeni making Chipsi Mayai



Students, faculty, and staff at the Tanzania/Kenya International Showcase



Dr. Judith Mwakalonge and Cuthbert Ruseruka prepping a Tanzanian dish

SWAHILI AT SCSU



Julie Chengula engages students in the Swahili class



Paul Omulokoli giving an overview of Kenya to the Swahili students



Swahili Instructors (L-R): Debbie Indah, Juliana Chengula, Hannah Musau, and Paul Omulokoli



L-R: Paul Omulokoli, Marion Harley, Hannah Musau, Lila Green, Juliana Chengula, Rejoice Anaele, Cuthbert Ruseruka, Nehemiah Smith, and Debbie Indah

On March 1, 2023 OINSEP began offering Basic Conversational Swahili to students, faculty, and staff at SC State. This initiative is a partnership with the graduate students in the Transportation program who are from Tanzania and Kenya. UNESCO reports that Swahili is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world with over 200 million speakers. Being able to speak another language is a great professional asset in today's world.

The last Swahili class was held on April 19, 2023. The instructors were provided with gifts in appreciation for their service. Students have a lot of vocabulary and situational phrases to practice and master over the summer. OINSEP is grateful to Paul Omulokoli, Juliana Chengula, Debbie Indah, Hannah Musau, and Cuthbert Ruseruka for volunteering their time to teach Swahili at SC State.

OINSEP SUPPORTS STEM SHOWCASE

Compared to students in other disciplines, STEM students are not represented well in cultural immersion and study abroad programs. To address this disparity, especially among minorities, OINSEP hosted a table at the 2023 STEM Showcase held on March 22nd in the Engineering and Computer Science Building. The STEM Showcase was sponsored by the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Transportation. Dr. Learie Luke and students in the SA 300 Cultural Immersion course who recently went to Trinidad and Tobago manned the table and explained the services offered by OINSEP. The students also shared their recent experiences in Trinidad and Tobago with those who stopped by the OINSEP table.



L: OINSEP table at the STEM Showcase

R: Derek Owens mans the table and shares information about his recent trip to Trinidad and Tobago with another student



INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE: INDIA

Following the Parade of Nations on November 10th, the Indian faculty and students hosted an International Showcase highlighting the diversity of India, its peoples and cultures. Drs. Renu Singh and Nikhil Bandodkar made an extremely informative and visually appealing presentation on India. Did you know that the Indian film industry is considered the world's largest and produces over 1,600 films in over 25 languages and dialects every year? Cricket is the national sport of India with millions of fans. Almost rivalling the Taj Mahal is the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Attendees at the Showcase were captivated by an Indian dance performed by Upasana Singh Nayak. Highlighting the Showcase was the Indian Bride (Namrata Garad) in traditional marriage garb and the super delicious menu of Butter Chicken, Garlic Naan, Tandoori Chicken, Chana Masala, Samosa, Matar Pulao, and Gulab Jamun. Students and staff from Felton Charter School joined the college community in attending this event and were enraptured by the colorful display of traditional Indian clothing and the fascinating scenes from the sub-continent of India.



L-R: Biswajit Biswal, Sandra Glover, Nikunja Swain, Aubrey Brown, Namrata Garad, Avianna Hogue, Renu Singh, Jagruti Sahoo, Upasana Singh Nayak, Saya Bisht, and Suman Bhatt



Dr. Renu Singh in a beautiful sari providing information on India



L-R: Miss SC State Avianna Hogue, Namrata Garad, and Mister SC State Aubrey Brown



Assorted Indian food



L-R: Graduate student Suman Bhatt, Namrata Garad (Bride) and Saya Bisht



Students and Staff from Felton Charter School take a picture with Ms. SC State

INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE: SOUTH KOREA

OINSEP collaborated with the South Korean faculty to host an international showcase highlighting their country and culture. The event took place on February 23, 2023 in Staley Hall.

The program consisted of outstanding presentations by Drs. Jai Hong Lee, Seeung Oh, Ka-Young Lee, and Jai Dong Hong on the rich history, culture, traditions, music, textiles, food, and economic triumph of the Korean people. A packed audience of students were enthralled as the various presentations were made.



Dr. Jae Dong Hong (2nd from right) explains the South Korean dishes.
L-R: Rainbow rice cake, Songpyeon (rice cake with sweet stuffing), Yak-sik (sweetened rice with dried fruits & nuts), Dak-gang-jeong (sweet & crispy fried chicken), Japachae (sweet potato starch noodles stir fried with vegetables)



Rejoice Analae and Nehemiah Smith look at Korean Artifacts



Hanbok:
Korean Clothing



L-R: Dr. Learie Luke, Ms. Dominique Rolle, Dr. Jai Hong Lee, Dr. Jae Dong Hong, Dr. Ka-Young Lee and Dr. Seeung Oh

The South Korean faculty and their families prepared delicious samples of their favorite dishes that remind them of home. These were shared with attendees. The menu included Korean fried chicken, kimchi, rainbow rice cake, potato glass noodles, Su-jeong-gwa, KimChi, and more!

The program also included a guest appearance by President Alexander Conyers whose remarks to the students included the message "Sometimes, You have to GO to GROW". President Conyers briefly spoke to students about the time he spent living in South Korea with his family when he served in the U.S. Military and the importance of international travel to expand their world view.



South Korean food:
L-R: Yak-sik, Songpyeon, and Rainbow rice cake

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15, 2022

South Carolina State University celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 with two activities. First, the OINSEP staff along students from the Spanish courses served the deliciously sweet and refreshing Mexican drink, Agua de Horchata (rice and cinnamon drink) in Belcher Hall on September 26, 2022.

When students, faculty and staff attended the event, they were engaged by friendly students who were enrolled in Spanish courses taught by Drs. Susan Stein and Margaret Morris. The students shared conversational Spanish greetings and phrases with attendees. That experience helped to hone the foreign language skills of the students and provided the guests with basic knowledge of navigating an initial conversation with a Spanish speaker.

Some of the students who greeted the guests next to the flags of various Hispanic countries, included sophomore Criminal Justice major Delaney Davis from Chicago. Delaney had nine years of Spanish including her high school studies. Biology major MaKenzie Cann also greeted guests. She was taking her first semester of Spanish. Amouree Small, a Criminal Justice major from Brooklyn, New York also shared her knowledge of Spanish. She had taken three years of Spanish in high school. Maryah Baxter, a psychology major from Harleyville, SC also greeted guests in Spanish. Her goal is to become an adolescent therapist. Among the greeters was Nymetria Wooten whose family is from Panama.

Middle Level Education major Christopher Austin also shared Spanish phrases as guests waited for their glass of Agua de Horchata. Joining Christopher was another education major, sophomore Kennington Rogers from Florence, SC. OINSEP thanks these students and their professors for helping to make Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 special at South Carolina State University.



L-R: Spanish Professor Susan Stein; Jordan Brown, one of the winners of the Amazing Race; and Dr. Learie Luke wearing a Mexican serape.



Syahsia Smith and Chanice Harris with tokens from winning the Amazing Global Race

Hispanic Heritage Month was also celebrated by hosting the Amazing Global Race. This was a scavenger hunt that took students to four buildings on campus where they had to answer a question associated with Hispanic Heritage in order to get the clue that led them to the next station. The first clue was "Go to the building with the clock." Students were encouraged to get a partner and complete the Amazing Global Race by 2:00 pm. The winners of this exciting activity received prizes including a gift card to the bookstore and SCSU paraphernalia.

LATIN AMERICAN/CARIBBEAN ARTIFACT DISPLAY

On November 16, 2022, OINSEP hosted a Latin American/Caribbean Artifact Display in the lobby of Belcher Hall. Cultural artifacts representing a variety of countries and cultures were donated or loaned by a number of faculty. Dr. Moreen Joseph shared items from her native Guyana, including wood carvings and leather sandals. She also had a small umbrella with the colors of the Guyana flag that accented the display of the Guyanese items. Dr. Learie Luke, who had recently travelled to Guyana, added basketry made by the Amerindians of Guyana to the display. Dr. Susan Stein donated a fascinating display of Andean ceramic pieces that were part of her father's collection. Some of these pieces may date back to the 1930s and even earlier. They are depictions of animals, churches and vases. Dr. Margaret Morris provided colourful dolls from Colombia and Brazil. Finally, Dr. Alison McLetchie donated pieces from Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago. At the display, attendees were treated with a glass of refreshing sorrel drink, which is made in various countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.



Peruvian artifacts from the 1930s donated by Dr. Susan Stein



Display of artifacts from Latin American and the Caribbean in the lobby of Belcher Hall



Ingredients for making sorrel drink: dried sorrel, ginger, bay leaves, cinnamon, cloves, hard spice, and sugar



Spanish Professor Susan Stein toasts with a glass of sorrel at the table with Peruvian artifacts

OINSEP SUPPORTS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AT "TASTE OF THE WORLD" EVENT



Students sampling international dishes at Taste of the World



OINSEP's booth with literature and painted rocks of the flags of countries



L-R: Dr. Haile Selassie, Mrs. Bathsheba Mack, & Student

On March 30, 2023, the College of Business and Information Systems celebrated International Business Day with the "*Taste of the World*" event, which is an annual luncheon held during Business Week. The event features sweet and savoury dishes from all over the world prepared by faculty, staff, and students who share a delicious taste of their home countries with the SCSU community. Some of the Business faculty, such as Matthew Guah, Joseph Onyeocha and Sandra Glover wore clothing representative of their culture or the culture of other countries. Along with food, this representation provided a sense of authenticity to the event



Dr. Sandra Glover in African attire and Ms. Dominique Rolle

The Office of International and National Student Exchange Programs (OINSEP) collaborated with Dr. David Jamison to add a bit of global flare by hosting a booth with information on the Fulbright, Study Abroad, Cultural Immersion, and the National Student Exchange opportunities available to students and faculty at SCSU. OINSEP's booth consisted of informative literature, gifts, and take-aways such as painted rocks of flags, mini flags, and candies from various regions across the globe. In addition, to the booth, OINSEP put its inventory of over 80 international flags on display in the Belcher Hall lobby. These flags represent the home countries of faculty, staff, and students, both past and present, representing but not limited to the Bahamas, Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Japan, Kenya, Ghana, Guyana, Liberia, South Korea, Nigeria, Tanzania, and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.



Dr. Mathew Guah & Prof. Joseph Onyeocha

Along with the Taste of the World luncheon, International Business Day includes an engaging activity called "Brain Bowl." This is a fun interactive game that allows students to sharpen their knowledge on global topics and historical facts.



Dr. David Jamison, Associate Professor of Marketing and Coordinator of the Taste of the World & Brain Bowl. Dr. Jamison is also the P.I. of the Business International Education Grant.

LET'S DANCE SALSA!



Harby Gonzalez leads students and faculty in Salsa in the Bulldog Lounge

Dance is an exciting and engaging expression of culture. Learning a dance from another culture provides an immersive experience that engages one's creativity and movement. On November 3, 2022, Bulldogs donned their dancing shoes and moved to Salsa rhythms of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and New York. The first Salsa dance class was held in the Bulldog Lounge under the supervision of Mr. Harby Gonzalez of the Esmeralda Dance Studio in Columbia, SC. Gonzalez was born in Medellin, Colombia. The students and faculty who attended the classes had a lot of fun learning various dance moves. After the first class in the Fall, attendees requested another one in the Spring, which was held on February 23, 2023.



Salsa dance instructors



Students and faculty learn Salsa from Harby Gonzalez (2nd from Left) and his assistant



Science faculty enjoying the Salsa dance class

OINSEP FACILITATES COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITIES IN AFRICA



Members of the African delegation and SCSU staff take a photo in the Donma Administration Building

On October 28, 2022, South Carolina State University hosted representatives from 15 African universities to discuss partnerships to meet the needs of those institutions. The delegation was sponsored by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Congress. Dr. Devin Randolph, Director of the Special Partnerships for the Anne Frank Center at the University of South Carolina, served as the liaison for the delegation and helped broker the arrangements for the delegation to meet with officials at SC State.

Dr. Luke chaired the meeting and served as the SC State liaison to make arrangements for the delegation's visit. The needs of the African universities, particularly faculty exchange, were discussed at the meeting. The two associate provosts, representatives from 1890 Division, the Office of Admissions, the Presidents Office, and OINSEP were in attendance to share information with the delegation and help answer questions. At the end of the discussions, the delegation took a tour of the campus.



Dr Devin Randolph (Ctr.) Dr. Learie Luke (R), Dr. David Staten (L), Mr. Elbert Malone (L), Dr. Lamin Drammeh (L) and other SCSU staff and members of the African Delegation.



Scientific Figure on ResearchGate. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-of-Africa-highlighting-countries_fig1_332380173 [accessed 24 Apr, 2023]

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Livia holds Certificate of Appreciation at the 2022 Brazilian International Showcase

Livia Souza Silva from Brazil graduated with a BS degree in Management in Fall 2022. She played a critical role in hosting a Brazilian Showcase before she graduated. Her most positive experience was being able to come to the USA and play the sport she loves, which is soccer. Livia was a dynamic student athlete. Her favorite campus employees were Dr. Sandra Glover from the College of Business and Information Systems, and Ms. Mary White, who worked in the Honors College while Livia was a student.

She credits the welcoming attitude of Bulldogs and the International Association for making her feel connected to her home country and culture. At SCSU, Livia was a member of the Women's Soccer Team and the Honors College. She was involved in athletic competitions and student organizations. Livia is currently enrolled at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa pursuing a Master's degree in Sports Management. She offers the following advice to incoming international students: "Don't be scared, go out there and make friends and memories!"

Selim Ben Ali is a senior accounting major who hails from Tunisia. He graduates in May 2023. He is a member of SCSU's award-winning Men's Tennis Team. He enjoys playing soccer, video games, fishing and trying new international foods. His SCSU experience reminds him of home because of the sense of community and the fact that everyone has been "super helpful." His most positive experiences at the university has been "wining 1st place in the HP Case Competition and being a member of the championship winning Men's Tennis Team!

His experience on campus has been positive due to the outstanding support from all faculty and staff in the College of Business and Information Systems (COB) as they prepared him for his professional career after graduation. His accomplishments during his matriculation at SC State include: 2020-2021 *Outstanding Student of the Year for the COB, 2020-2021 SC State University Shining Star, BAP President 2021-2022, 1st Place Competitor in the HP Case Competition, and 1st Place award in the SCSU Case Competition in 2020.* Selim has managed to achieve all of the above while maintaining stellar academic performance with a 4.00 GPA.

His advice to incoming international students is "be willing to learn and listen to people who have more experience than you. Focus on your classes and never neglect your grades."



Selim Ben Ali

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Frank Ngeni attend SC State from January 2021 and graduated in December 2022 with an MS in Transportation. His most positive experiences at SCSU involved meeting new friends and learning from them. He describes his professors as "incredible" and credits them for his professional growth. He says that learning the American lifestyle and traveling to big cities such as Seattle, New Orleans, Houston, St. Louis, and Atlanta had an "everlasting" impression on him; they were more than he could have imagined.

He states that Dr. Judith Mwakalonge "transformed my engineering experience into technological and implementable ideas through research practices and cooperation with other university students [at] Clemson and the University of South Carolina." He also credits Dr. Learie Luke with being helpful with administrative advice, and that "his knowledge to assist international students has been exquisite." He is also grateful to Dr. Saidi Siuhi whom he calls his "life experience advisor" who helped him grow while studying.

Frank notes that the "incredible" OINSEP events, such as the international showcases, made him feel connected to his home country and culture. "Tasting different countries' foods, listening to their music and [their] cultural history was incredible." While at State, Frank loved attending football matches and Homecoming events. He also liked American music "with that swag of GloRilla; it's awesome."

Frank is currently working at the Consor Engineers office in San Antonio, Texas. Prior to coming to America, he worked as a Construction Project Manager at the Tanzania National Roads Agency. To other international students he gives the following advice: "Perseverance is key to achieving anything. Furthermore, having discipline and knowing what you are supposed to achieve at the end of your study is essential."



Frank Ngeni, Fall 2022

Statistics from the 2022 Open Doors Report published by the Institute of International Education show that during the 2021-2022 year, the USA welcomed and hosted:

- 344,532 Undergrad international students
- 385,097 Graduate international students
- 34,131 Non-Degree international students
- 184,759 International graduates on OPT*
- 763,760 Total enrolled international students
- 30.6% from China
- 21% from India
- 4.3% from South Korea
- 2.8% from Canada
- 2.2% from Vietnam
- 2.2% from Taiwan
- 1.9% from Saudi Arabia
- 1.6% from Brazil
- 1.5% from Mexico
- 1.5% from Nigeria

*Optional Practical Training

At South Carolina State University:

- 23 international students enrolled in Fall 2022 from Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, India, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Philippines, Serbia, Tunisia, and Tanzania.
- 4 US students, 3 staff, and 4 alums engaged in cultural immersion for the 2021-2022 Year.
- 17 US students engaged in cultural immersion, so far, for the 2022-2023 Year.
- 1 US student engaged in NSE for the 2022-2023 Year.
- 17 students, 2 faculty, and 4 staff engaged in cultural immersion for the 2022-2023.

STUDY AWAY SCHOLASHIPS & FULBRIGHT AWARDS

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS)

In the CLS program, students spend eight to ten weeks abroad over the summer studying one of 15 critical languages. The CLS Program, a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is part of a U.S. government's initiative to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering foreign languages that are critical to national security and economic prosperity.
CLS Scholarship awards are up to $8,000.

Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship

Thinking of studying or interning abroad? Receive up to $5,000 (or up to $8,000 if you're studying a Critical Needs Language) to go abroad on an in-person program as a college student, if you're a U.S. citizen and Federal Pell Grant recipient! The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship application is open to citizens or nationals of the US. Students must be in good standing.

Gilman-McCain Scholarship

Receive $5,000 if you're a child or spousal dependent of an active duty military member and receive any type of Title IV Federal Financial Aid to go abroad on an in-person program.

For assistance with Study Away scholarships contact Dominique Rolle at drolle@scsu.edu.

Fulbright Awards

In 2022-2023 one faculty member applied for a Fulbright Scholar award. OINSEP also started recruiting for the US Student Fulbright and is currently assisting two students with their 2024-2025 Fulbright applications.

For assistance with Fulbright Scholar and Fulbright US Student programs contact Dr. Learie Luke at lluke@scsu.edu.

BENEFITS OF INT'ERNATIONAL TRAVEL

- Allows you to see the world "up close and personal"
- Exposes you to new cultures and perspectives
- Improves cultural competence and intercultural communication
- Develops confidence as you move outside your comfort zone
- Helps to improve language acquisition skills
- Facilitates discovery of career opportunities abroad

NATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

South Carolina State University is a member institution of the National Student Exchange Program (NSE). The program provides students with an experience that takes them outside of their comfort zones and challenges them to experience life from a different point of view as they study at a host institution in the US or Canada. Currently, there are over 200 participating institutions that are NSE partners. Ms. Dominique Rolle is the NSE Coordinator. You can review the NSE program and schools at www.NSE.org.

STUDENTS ON NSE

During the Spring 2023 semester, South Carolina State University re-engaged with the NSE Program. Edward David from the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas (UVI) and Penelope Fennell from SCSU studied on each other's campuses. Edward is a sophomore Business Administration major. Penelope is a senior Agribusiness major. Both students responded to questions about their experiences. Below are Edward's responses.

So far, what differences between SCSU and your home campus at UVI?
The biggest difference between my home campus and SCSU is the weather. It is much, much colder here than in the Virgin Islands. SCSU is much bigger than UVI. There is also a lot more events and things to do on and off campus.

What do you hope to learn or experience while in the continental U.S.?
One thing I hope to do is explore both Charleston and Columbia. I've heard that there's a lot of history between those two cities, which I find interesting. Coming from a small island of only 32 square miles, there's an endless amount of things for me to learn and experience in the U.S.

What are three interesting facts about you; hobbies, interests etc?
I am a football fanatic. My favorite team is the NY Giants. I am also a big music person (I write and make music). I also speak another language (Spanish). I am a very friendly person, so if you see me and want to have a conversation, I am more than delighted to do so.

What is your most memorable experience at SCSU?
[It] has to be Bulldog Fest! Everyone showed out on all the days at it was a site to witness.



Edward David
Class: Sophomore
Major:Business Administration

Penelope Fennell
Class: Senior
Major: Agribusiness



Below are Penelope's responses.

What made you select UVI as your host campus for the spring 2023 semester?
This one happened to be one of my top choices as it's located in the Caribbean and spoke the language I knew. I had never heard of St. Thomas before, and I wanted it to be a completely new experience. An additional plus was that it was also an HBCU like SC State.

So far, what differences are there between SCSU and UVI?
The culture of being on an island is definitely different. First, island time is very real so I've stopped expecting to start anything on time ever. Second, chicken and rice are Caribbean staples and I miss the food at home more than the weather.

What do you hope to learn or experience while in St. Thomas?
I hope to learn more about the history of the Caribbean as my mother is from Puerto Rico and the two islands have the same indigenous people. [In addition, I want to develop] relationships with people that I may have never gotten the chance to meet.

How has your experience on campus been so far?
Different; one thing I do miss is the A/C. Other than that, I love the people, nearly everyone you meet is extremely welcoming no matter the differences. The fresh fruit trees on campus are my favorite thing when referencing campus living.

What are three interesting facts about you: hobbies, interests, etc?
My favorite hobbies include traveling (truly exploring and getting to know nature and people), eating, photographing, and dancing. St. Thomas has provided a fantastic environment for me to do all of these.

PASSPORT FAIR



Staff from the Charleston Passport Center & OINSEP

A very successful Passport Fair was hosted by OINSEP on January 26, 2023. Staff from the Charleston Passport Center set up shop in Belcher Hall and served almost 100 attendees (comparable to attendance at other venues). This was a record turnout for SC State, which allowed students, faculty, staff, alums, and community members from as far as Charleston to apply for new passports or to get their expired passports renewed. Eighty-Seven individuals were able to successfully apply for passports. For most applicants, the process took 15 minutes or less. Attendees were highly satisfied with the customer service and speedy processing of their applications. Some of them received their passports within two weeks of applying.

MISSION

The mission of the Office of International and National Student Exchange Programs (OINSEP) is to strengthen the academic and cultural environment of South Carolina State University using initiatives that support the internalization of the campus community, in keeping with the University's mission statement, by offering a diverse array of intercultural programs, courses, and international travel opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and alumni.



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SCSU students in France with the Eiffel Tower in the background, 2018



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South Carolina State University provides equal opportunity regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status in accordance with federal and state laws.