Alcorn State University is pleased to welcome new international students on campus as part of the United States Department of State’s Global Undergraduate Exchange Program in Pakistan (Global UGRAD-Pakistan). Joining the Alcorn State University family are Angbeen Batool, Shahzadi Laibah Burq and Cyril Khokhar.

The Global Undergraduate Exchange Program in Pakistan (Global UGRAD-Pakistan) builds the capacity of a diverse group of youth leaders from underserved populations across Pakistan. Through U.S.-based training and practical experience in leadership positions, community engagement, and in their professional fields, undergraduate students gain the skills needed to implement long-term civic and economic changes in their communities, building stability through increased local capacity and cross-cultural understanding. Through semester-long programs of study, exploration of U.S. culture, leadership development, and integration into U.S. communities, Global UGRAD-Pakistan students develop a broad and nuanced understanding of U.S. values and become citizen ambassadors who support expanded diplomatic and development partnerships.

In addition to their academic studies, Global UGRAD-Pakistan students perform community service and explore American traditions through the unique digital Cultural Passport to America program, which provides students with a framework for comprehensively exploring various aspects of American culture. They go on to share this understanding of the U.S. with friends, family, and others in their communities back home.

Global UGRAD-Pakistan students are also “ambassadors” for Pakistan. Many of them are the only representative of Pakistan on campus. Their unique perspectives and backgrounds enrich the learning experience for American students. Global UGRAD-Pakistan students also give presentations about their home country and cultures at local schools, Rotary clubs, elderly homes, and other locations, reaching thousands of Americans each year.

The Global Undergraduate Exchange Program in Pakistan is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and is administered by the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX).
New FLTAs, Portuguese Language Added

This fall, the new group of Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) arrived at Alcorn to teach the Foreign Language Institutes (FLI) for the 2015-2016 academic year. For the first time, we are offering the Portuguese language, in addition to Chinese and Arabic, to those interested in taking a foreign language here at Alcorn.

The new Fulbright FLTAs for the 2015-2016 academic year are Mariana N. Monteiro from Brazil (Portuguese), Wei “David” Li from China (Chinese), and Mohamed El Kory Mohamed Lemine Bonneir from Mauritania (Arabic).

Mariana Nunes Monteiro from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is the 2015-2016 Fulbright Portuguese FLTA. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Portuguese and English studies in 2012 from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. Then, in 2014, she majored in Portuguese and English teaching at the same institution. Her favorite subjects at college were didactics and English. Mariana started learning English when she was 12 years old at a language institute in Brazil and she’s always been passionate about this language. Her parents are divorced, but remain close friends. She has two sisters. Mariana’s older sister is married and lives in another state and her younger half-sister lives with her mother. Mariana lives with her mother and stepfather, but she usually spends most of her weekends at her father’s home helping him take care of his mother. She thinks Alcorn is definitely a friendly place. What got her attention the most was the fact that people greet each other a lot, even when they don’t know the person. She believes this behavior creates a pleasant environment to live and learn in. This is not Mariana’s first time in the United States. In 2010, she worked at Disney World, in Orlando, Florida. She stayed there for three months and really enjoyed the experience. After her program at Disney, she visited New York city for a couple of days. Mariana wishes she could afford more trips within the United States, because she thinks that there are amazing places here that she would like to see and experience.

Wei “David” Li is the Fulbright Chinese FLTA for 2015-2016. He is from the Hainan Province which is in the southern part of China. He got his master’s degree at Chongqing Normal University in English education and his favorite subject was Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). He began to learn English at five years of age and participated in English social and chat sites to become immersed in the English speaking environments rather than just doing language drills. He comes from a one-child-policy family (established in the 1980s in China), so he has no brothers or sisters. His parents are both ordinary civil servants. He likes Alcorn campus because it is pastoral, with beautiful lakes and green lawns. The scenery is great and everyone’s hospitality has touched him a lot. He’s made a lot of good friends at Alcorn. He likes to listen to different indie music and loves to travel. This is his first time in the United States and he has only been to Washington D.C. and Mississippi. He would like to travel around the United States for a year, if he gets the opportunity.

Mohamed El Kory Mohamed Lemine Bonneir is the Fulbright Arabic FLTA for 2015-2016 and he is from Zoueratt, Mauritania. He graduated from Nouakchott University in 2009 and from Teachers’ Training College in 2015. El Kory’s favorite subjects were linguistics and grammar. English language and literature was his major at the Faculty of Art and Human Sciences-University of Nouakchott. He is from a small family and is the youngest of his siblings. El Kory thinks Alcorn is a nice and safe place and the people here are very friendly, greeting him whenever they see him. He enjoys the diversity of Alcorn’s campus. Although he is here for only one year as an FLTA, El Kory would like to come to Alcorn to obtain his masters’ degree. He enjoys playing soccer and wishes there was a team here at Alcorn. This is his first time to visit the United States and, other than Mississippi, he has only been to Washington D.C.

Please give our new Fulbright FLTAs a warm Alcorn welcome and considering taking one of the language classes.

Fulbright FLTAs give presentations on their respective countries to Dr. Stephen Hall’s class. From left, Wei “David” Li, Chinese FLTA, Mohamed El Kory Mohamed Lemine Bonneir, Arabic FLTA, and Mariana Monteiro, Portuguese FLTA.
Alcorn Model UN Club Wins First Place at NAAAHP Competition

The Model United Nations (UN) is a simulation of the UN General Assembly and other multilateral bodies. In the Model UN, students represent one of 193 countries recognized by the UN. They may also represent some international organizations or territories that have observer status at the UN, e.g., the Vatican, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Palestine, etc. In model UN, students are delegates, i.e., they step into the shoes of UN Ambassadors, and represent as much as possible the views and positions of their country through speeches, negotiations with allies or adversary countries and draft resolutions to be adopted by committees, and the General Assembly. In order to be successful, student delegates have to learn as much as possible about the countries they are representing and most importantly they have to navigate the Model UN conference rules of procedures.

Alcorn Model UN students participated in the Model African Union Competition at the 2015 National African-American Association of Honors Programs Conference which was held in Nashville, Tennessee. The Model African Union is similar to the Model UN, except that it simulates the African Union, which is a multilateral organization representing 54 independent countries on the African continent. The rules of procedures are similar to the Model United Nations with minor deviations. The following students made the Alcorn Model African Union team: Charlene Bartels-Eshun, senior business administration major (representing Egypt); Timira D. Lockhart, sophomore agriculture science/environmental science major (representing Sierra Leone); Mario T. Martinez, senior biology major (representing South Africa); and Torria M. Powell, sophomore political science/pre-law major (representing South Sudan). The student participants worked for two days in the General Plenary and their work culminated in the drafting and adoption of three resolutions addressing the following topics: (1) Counterterrorism Efforts on the African Continent, (2) Resolving Border Disputes and Ethnic Conflicts on the African Continent; and (3) Global Climate Change and Sustainable African Development. The winners of the competition were: First Place - Alcorn State University, Second Place - Hampton University, Third Place - Florida A&M University.

Commenting about the conference, Torria Powell (Alcorn Model UN Head delegate) stated “the NAAAHP Conference made me rejuvenated, like I became a new individual. It helped me look at things in the world differently. It would be beneficial if we could participate in this conference every year because it seems to be better each year.” Dr. Dovi Alipoe, director of Global Programs, serves as the faculty advisor for Alcorn’s Model UN Club. For more information about the Club, please contact him at (601) 877-6543 or alipoe@alcorn.edu.

International Coffee Hour Fosters Multicultural Connections

Every Friday at 10:00 a.m., the Office of Global Programs hosts International Coffee Hour. This is a time for Alcorn students, staff and faculty members to get together and interact with international students attending Alcorn. The participants listen to presentations about international events and about the countries that our international students come from while enjoying fresh coffee, tea and light refreshments. This semester, there have been a number of interesting topics and presentations and along with some lively discussions.

On October 30, there was a group pumpkin carving. Many of the international students either do not have a Halloween holiday at all or it is celebrated differently than it is in the United States. Pumpkin carving was a fun and interactive way for those students from another country to learn about and enjoy some of the customs of a typical American Halloween. They all did a great job on their pumpkins and had a wonderful time.

On November 6, there was a presentation by IREX exchange students, Shahzadi Laibah Burq and Angbeen Batool. They dressed in native attire and gave a very interesting and informative talk on their country of Pakistan. Also, before their presentation, Aubrey Wright, a senior history major who is doing a semester abroad in Japan, joined the discussion via Skype (even though it was 1:00 a.m. in Japan) and told about his experiences in Japan. He is enjoying it immensely.
On October 29, the Office of Global Programs hosted another installment in the Humpty Dumpty UN Lecture Series with a presentation on “Conventional and Emerging Peace and Security Challenges in Africa, Middle East and South-East Asia” by H.E. Ambassador Ufuk Gokcen, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Friday, November 13, 2015 was a lucky day at the weekly OGP International Coffee Hour. Adrian McLain, president of Alcorn’s Student Government Association (SGA) and Amber King, Miss Alcorn 2015-2016, presented two baskets of food and drinks to the international students at the Office of Global Programs. What a lovely Thanksgiving gift! Thank you, SGA!

The mission of the Office of Global Programs (OGP) is to facilitate global engagement through the infusion of relevant international content, activities and knowledge to advance internationalization. OGP coordinates and spearheads activities related to five major unit goals in support of the university’s mission. For more information, visit www.alcorn.edu.

OGP Staff

Dr. Dovi Alipoe - Director of Global Programs
Zandra Lowe - Data Manager
Yuliya Reed-Waddell - ESL Educator
Peggi Wolfe - Global Programs Specialist/Global Classroom

H.E. Ambassador Ufuk Gokcen, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the United Nations spoke on “Conventional and Emerging Peace and Security Challenges in Africa, Middle East and South-East Asia”.

International Notes

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World Current Events Question

China ended its decades-old “one child” policy on Oct. 29, 2015 announcing that all married couples would be ________.

a. allowed to have two children
b. encouraged to have as many children as possible
c. penalized for having any children at all
d. penalized for having fewer than three children

Answer: a

Upcoming Event

The Benjamin Gilman International Scholarship applications will re-open for the summer and fall 2016 semesters in mid-January. If you're interested in Study Abroad and are a Pell Grant recipient, consider applying for this scholarship.