The Barbara H. Padnos International Center

The Padnos International Center (PIC), a member of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, supports Grand Valley State University students in three primary ways. PIC facilitates study abroad and internship opportunities for every major and minor at GVSU in every region of the world. PIC also provides support to the growing international student population. Lastly, PIC sponsors events aimed at internationalizing the campus community.

In addition to academic services for students, PIC also serves GVSU faculty and staff in their international endeavors.

About this Catalog

This catalog is designed to provide a brief overview of the international opportunities for GVSU faculty and staff. Additionally, faculty and staff will find resources to assist them in advising international students and domestic students who wish to study abroad.

Mission Statement

To engage the university community in meaningful international experiences that foster an appreciation and awareness of diverse cultures, people, and ideas.

Contact Us

130 Lake Ontario Hall
616-331-3898
pic@gvsu.edu
www.gvsu.edu/pic

Mark Schaub (Chief International Officer) schaubm@gvsu.edu
Rebecca Hambleton (Director of Study Abroad & International Partnerships) hambletr@gvsu.edu
Kate Stoetznk (Director of International Student & Scholar Services) stoetznk@gvsu.edu
Elena Seleznova (Coordinator of Faculty-Led Programs) selezn@gsu.edu
Meaghann Myers-Smith (Study Abroad Advisor) myersmea@gvsu.edu
GVSU PARTNERSHIPS

GVSU has partnerships with institutions all around the world. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to engage in international exchange with our partners and seek opportunities for collaboration. For information on forming a new international partnership, please visit the website.

Australia
Macquarie University
www.mq.edu.au
University of the Sunshine Coast
www.usc.edu.au

Austria
FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences (PCEC)
www.fh-joanneum.at

Chile
Universidad del Bío-Bío
www.ubiobio.cl

China
East China Normal University
www.ecnu.edu.cn
China-Japan Friendship Hospital
www.zryhyy.com.cn

France
L’Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Commerciales d’Angers
www.essca.fr
Groupe ESC Grenoble (SCB)
www.grenoble-em.com
Université Catholique de l’Ouest
www.ucq.fr
Université de Versailles
Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines
www.uvsq.fr

Germany
Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (SCB/PCEC)
www.dhbw.de
Pädagogische Hochschule Schwäbisch Gmünd (CLAS/COE)
www.ph-gmuend.de

Ghana
University of Cape Coast
www.ucc.edu.gh

Hungary
University of Debrecen
www.unideb.hu

Italy
Università degli Studi di Perugia (CLAS)
www.unipg.it
Università per Stranieri di Perugia (CLAS)
www.unistrapg.it/english

Japan
International Christian University
www.icu.ac.jp
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
www.apu.ac.jp

Mexico
Universidad de las Américas
www.udlap.mx

Norway
University of Oslo
www.uio.no

Poland
Cracow University of Economics
www.uek.krakow.pl

South Korea
Seoul National University of Science and Technology
www.seoultech.ac.kr

Spain
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
www.uc3m.com
University of Deusto (Pending)
www.deusto.es

Switzerland
Zurich University of Applied Sciences (PCEC)
www.engineering.zhaw.ch/en

Taiwan
National Taiwan Normal University
www.ntnu.edu.tw

Turkey
Middle East Technical University
www.metu.edu.tr

United Kingdom
Kingston University
www.kingston.ac.uk
University of Brighton (SCB)
www.brighton.ac.uk

AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to connect with affiliate programs for additional international opportunities in a wide range of locations around the world.

American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS)
www.aifsabroad.com
Academic Programs International (API)
www.apistudyabroad.com
Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE)
www.ciee.org
Cultural Experiences Abroad (CEA)
www.gowithcea.com
Edge Hill University (EHU), Ormskirk, England
www.edgehill.ac.uk
European Study Abroad (EUSA)
www.eusa-edu.com
Global Semesters
www.globalsemesters.com
Hellenic International Studies of the Arts (HiSA), Paros, Greece
www.hellenicinternational.org
International Studies Abroad (ISA)
www.studiesabroad.com

John Cabot University (JCU), Rome, Italy
www.johncabot.edu
School of Russian and Asian Studies (SRAS) Pending
www.sras.org
Semester in India, Kerala, India
www.semesterinindia.org
University of Deusto (U of D), Bilbao, Spain
www.cide.deusto.es

CONSORTIA PROGRAMS

Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching (COST)
www.teachabroad.ua.edu
Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU)
www.jcmu.isp.msu.edu

www.gvsu.edu/pic
GRANTS

The Padnos International Center offers a wide-range of grants to support faculty, staff, and departmental interests in developing international activities. The following grant programs are designed to encourage faculty and staff to engage in collaborative educational exchanges with GVSU’s international partners, work towards GVSU’s internationalization goals, and to increase our understanding of different education systems and cultures around the world.

Grant recipients are expected to incorporate their experiences abroad into their work at GVSU and to be advocates for international exchange within our campus community.

For information on how to apply, please visit www.gvsu.edu/pic/fsgrants

PARTNERSHIP DELEGATION GRANT
APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 1, 2014
ELIGIBILITY: Faculty*, AP Staff and COT Staff

The International Partnership Delegation Grant provides the opportunity to travel to one of GVSU’s partner institutions as part of a small group of colleagues. A GVSU faculty member with expertise in the destination country and culture, as well as a representative from the Padnos International Center, will lead the group. Transportation, housing, and most meals are covered for recipients of this award. The 2015 group will travel to The University of Cape Coast in Ghana.

FACULTY/STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM
APPLICATION DEADLINES: October 1, 2014 (For travel completed by October 2015)
ELIGIBILITY: Faculty*, AP Staff, COT Staff and Maintenance Staff

The Faculty/Staff Exchange Program is designed to significantly deepen or broaden GVSU’s comprehensive partnerships with select overseas institutions. This program is aimed at helping units and individuals realize existing internationalization goals. In particular, this program is an avenue to bring appropriate individuals from partner institutions here to the GVSU campuses so that our community can learn from them; the program supports reciprocal travel by appropriate individuals to visit the partner institutions, too. Grant awards are meant to provide enough funds for one individual to travel in each direction, but units or colleges may contribute funds for additional travelers.

INTERNATIONALIZATION GRANT
APPLICATION DEADLINES: October 1, 2014 and February 1, 2015
ELIGIBILITY: Faculty*

The Internationalization Grant is meant to support specific internationalization goals in particular academic programs, in development of dual- or joint-degree schemes, curriculum integration projects, or new courses that feature global learning outcomes. An essential element of this grant is that the recipient integrates the skills/knowledge they acquired during their experience back into the GVSU campus community upon their return. The grants are not aimed at supporting participation in academic conferences. Awards up to $3,000 per project.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT
Applications are considered on a rolling basis
ELIGIBILITY: GVSU Departments (Individual faculty and staff members are not eligible to apply for this grant)

The Partnership Development Grant is available to departments interested in furthering the development of an existing or new international partnership. Funding is limited and is intended to provide assistance for initiatives that are due to take place in the first year of a new project. We encourage departments to explore how GVSU’s international partnerships can enrich the offerings and activities within their respective area and how a partnership development grant could help meet the department’s goals. Preference will be given to projects in which the unit or college commits matching funds and to those projects that can show evidence of benefits to GVSU students.

PARTNERSHIP SUSTENANCE GRANT
Applications are considered on a rolling basis
ELIGIBILITY: Faculty* (Conditions apply, see below for details)

The Partnership Sustenance Grant has been developed to support faculty that have been involved with a partner institution for many years and have made significant contributions to the development of the partnership. The grant offers funding for short-term exchange opportunities that focus on nurturing relationships and sustaining program activities.

*Tenured, tenure-track or full-time affiliate faculty with five years at GVSU
PARTNERSHIP DELEGATION
Ghana: University of Cape Coast

Located on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, Cape Coast is known to be one of the most historically significant towns in West Africa. Cape Coast offers a contrast of lively street markets, UNESCO world heritage sites, excellent educational institutions, and beautiful coastal beaches, set along the backdrop of a laid back fishing village. Having gained its independence back in 1957, Ghana is one of Africa’s most stable and economically thriving countries.

The University of Cape Coast (UCC) is one of Ghana’s premier public universities with programs in Agriculture, Arts, Biological Sciences, Business, Education, Graduate Studies and Research, Law, Medical Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences. The University was founded in 1962 as a teacher training college and has since expanded to be a large, comprehensive university that enrolls more than 15,000 undergraduate students, as well as many graduate students. UCC offers a vibrant campus community, excellent educational programs, and a warm, welcoming environment. Grand Valley has had a partnership with UCC since 2002. Since that time, Ghana has become one of GVSU’s most popular study abroad destinations, ranking the 3rd highest.

Eligible faculty and staff are invited to apply to participate in the 2015 Partnership Delegation. Five faculty and staff will be selected. Transportation, housing and most meals are covered by the grant.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 1, 2014
ELIGIBILITY: Faculty*, AP Staff and COT Staff
APPLY: Visit www.gvsu.edu/pic/fsgrants
Tentative travel dates are February 28 - March 8, 2015

University of Cape Coast website: www.ucc.edu.gh
For additional information please contact Rebecca Hambleton (hambletr@gvsu.edu)

*Tenured, tenure-track or full-time affiliate faculty with five years at GVSU
TEACHING & RESEARCH ABROAD
Faculty are encouraged to explore opportunities for teaching and conducting research abroad. The Padnos International Center is able to provide assistance and guidance to faculty looking for international opportunities.

FULBRIGHT GRANT
Fulbright scholar grants provide support for faculty to spend time teaching and/or researching in another country. Typically, funds are also provided for dependents/family of the awardee to live abroad. The United States government supports the Fulbright Program in an effort to promote academic exchange and mutual understanding between the world’s nations.

Each year two or more GVSU faculty have been successful in securing Fulbright awards; you may be next. Faculty that have a sabbatical scheduled for 2016-17 should consider applying for a traditional Fulbright scholar grant.

FULBRIGHT WORKSHOP: Friday, March 13th, 2015 at the UClub (DeVos Center, Building C)
SIGN UP: Register online at www.gvsu.edu/seminar

Fulbright scholar website: www.cies.org

FULBRIGHT APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 1, 2015

For additional information please contact Mark Schaub (schaubm@gvsu.edu)

FULBRIGHT GRANT

Fulbright recipient Dr. Scott Stabler (GVSU History Department) and students in Ghana

Fulbright recipient John Bender (GVSU Chemistry Department) with colleague Eamonn Gallagher in Romania

TEACHING ABROAD
The Padnos International Center strongly encourages faculty to seek teaching opportunities abroad, especially as part of their sabbatical leaves. Teaching in another culture provides you with valuable insight and gives you the opportunity to work with counterparts in your field. These experiences then enhance and internationalize your teaching and research at GVSU after your return.

GVSU has partnerships with over thirty institutions globally. Faculty are encouraged to reach out to counterparts at these and other international institutions. While PIC is able to assist, faculty will be primarily responsible for making contacts and gaining an invitation from the host institution.

Below is a list of institutions that have a history of hosting GVSU faculty:

- Chile: Universidad del Bío-Bío (www.ubiobio.cl)
- France: Grenoble Ecole de Management (grenoble-em.com)
- France: L’Ecole Superieure des Sciences Commerciales d’Angers (essca.asso.fr)
- Germany: Pädagogische Hochschule Schwäbisch Gmünd (www.ph-gmued.de)
- Japan: Japan Center for Michigan Universities (jcmu.isp.msu.edu)
- Taiwan: National Taiwan Normal University (ntnu.edu.tw)
**INTERNATIONAL SERVICES**

The Padnos International Center offers a variety of services and support for GVSU faculty or staff members traveling abroad. PIC also sponsors events and workshops that help to internationalize our campus community.

---

**ACCOMPANYING STUDENTS ABROAD**

GVSU has a policy for any faculty or staff member planning to accompany GVSU students outside the USA. A great deal of advance planning is expected and the approval of the employee’s appointing officer is required.

---

**TRAVELING ABROAD**

Faculty or staff planning a work-related trip outside the USA, whether for research or conference participation, should review the resources at www.gvsu.edu/pic.

---

**GLOBAL GVSU NEWS & EVENTS**

To receive regular updates from the Padnos International Center about global news and events on campus, join the Global GVSU Faculty/Staff email list. Send your request to Alissa Lane (laneali@gvsu.edu)

---

**INTERNATIONALIZATION WORKSHOPS**

Each year, the GVSU Chief International Officer leads brief workshops on internationalization and how faculty can support study abroad and other international efforts.

**SIGN UP:** Register online at www.gvsu.edu/seminar

*Tentative dates in January 2015*

---

**PASSPORTS**

Passport photo services are available for faculty, staff and students on a walk-in basis during office hours. Padnos International Center offers two passport-size photos for $2.

PIC hosts two Passport Fairs each year. GVSU faculty, staff and students may apply for or renew a passport at this event. Fairs are typically held in November and February.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/pic for exact dates.
STUDY ABROAD

Study abroad offers students an academic experience that can enhance and compliment their GVSU education. GVSU faculty and staff can support this important opportunity by helping students frame their study abroad goals and make informed decisions about what courses to take abroad.

Resources for advisers working with study abroad students are available at www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/advisers

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Fall Study Abroad Fair
October 9th, 2014
10 AM – 3 PM
Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center

Please encourage your colleagues and classrooms to attend the Fall Study Abroad Fair - PIC’s biggest event of the year! This annual event gives students the chance to meet program directors and past study abroad participants, browse international opportunities and start their own experience abroad. PIC also holds an annual Pew Campus Advising Day and Winter Study Abroad Fair.

FIRST STEP MEETINGS

Study Abroad First Step Meetings are informational sessions that go over all the basics of study abroad, including program options and the application process.

Wednesdays:
5 - 6 PM at 130 Lake Ontario Hall

Thursdays (fall semester only):
5 - 6 PM at 040 Mary Idema Pew Library

FUNDING STUDY ABROAD WORKSHOP

Students are encouraged to attend this monthly workshop to learn more about how to fund study abroad. Visit the website for exact dates.

IDS 180 CLASS

Students interested in studying abroad should consider registering for IDS 180. This one credit course is meant to introduce students to the challenges and opportunities of international travel and to provide them with basic tools for ensuring a successful study abroad experience.

STUDY ABROAD WALK-IN ADVISING

Monday – Friday: 8 AM – 5 PM
Location: 130 Lake Ontario Hall

Extended hours on Wednesday during the fall and winter semesters: 8 AM - 7 PM

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Fall Study Abroad Fair
October 9th, 2014
10 AM – 3 PM
Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center

Please encourage your colleagues and classrooms to attend the Fall Study Abroad Fair - PIC’s biggest event of the year! This annual event gives students the chance to meet program directors and past study abroad participants, browse international opportunities and start their own experience abroad. PIC also holds an annual Pew Campus Advising Day and Winter Study Abroad Fair.

FIRST STEP MEETINGS

Study Abroad First Step Meetings are informational sessions that go over all the basics of study abroad, including program options and the application process.

Wednesdays:
5 - 6 PM at 130 Lake Ontario Hall

Thursdays (fall semester only):
5 - 6 PM at 040 Mary Idema Pew Library

FUNDING STUDY ABROAD WORKSHOP

Students are encouraged to attend this monthly workshop to learn more about how to fund study abroad. Visit the website for exact dates.

IDS 180 CLASS

Students interested in studying abroad should consider registering for IDS 180. This one credit course is meant to introduce students to the challenges and opportunities of international travel and to provide them with basic tools for ensuring a successful study abroad experience.

STUDY ABROAD WALK-IN ADVISING

Monday – Friday: 8 AM – 5 PM
Location: 130 Lake Ontario Hall

Extended hours on Wednesday during the fall and winter semesters: 8 AM - 7 PM

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Fall Study Abroad Fair
October 9th, 2014
10 AM – 3 PM
Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center

Please encourage your colleagues and classrooms to attend the Fall Study Abroad Fair - PIC’s biggest event of the year! This annual event gives students the chance to meet program directors and past study abroad participants, browse international opportunities and start their own experience abroad. PIC also holds an annual Pew Campus Advising Day and Winter Study Abroad Fair.

FIRST STEP MEETINGS

Study Abroad First Step Meetings are informational sessions that go over all the basics of study abroad, including program options and the application process.

Wednesdays:
5 - 6 PM at 130 Lake Ontario Hall

Thursdays (fall semester only):
5 - 6 PM at 040 Mary Idema Pew Library

FUNDING STUDY ABROAD WORKSHOP

Students are encouraged to attend this monthly workshop to learn more about how to fund study abroad. Visit the website for exact dates.

IDS 180 CLASS

Students interested in studying abroad should consider registering for IDS 180. This one credit course is meant to introduce students to the challenges and opportunities of international travel and to provide them with basic tools for ensuring a successful study abroad experience.

STUDY ABROAD WALK-IN ADVISING

Monday – Friday: 8 AM – 5 PM
Location: 130 Lake Ontario Hall

Extended hours on Wednesday during the fall and winter semesters: 8 AM - 7 PM

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Fall Study Abroad Fair
October 9th, 2014
10 AM – 3 PM
Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center

Please encourage your colleagues and classrooms to attend the Fall Study Abroad Fair - PIC’s biggest event of the year! This annual event gives students the chance to meet program directors and past study abroad participants, browse international opportunities and start their own experience abroad. PIC also holds an annual Pew Campus Advising Day and Winter Study Abroad Fair.

FIRST STEP MEETINGS

Study Abroad First Step Meetings are informational sessions that go over all the basics of study abroad, including program options and the application process.

Wednesdays:
5 - 6 PM at 130 Lake Ontario Hall

Thursdays (fall semester only):
5 - 6 PM at 040 Mary Idema Pew Library

FUNDING STUDY ABROAD WORKSHOP

Students are encouraged to attend this monthly workshop to learn more about how to fund study abroad. Visit the website for exact dates.

IDS 180 CLASS

Students interested in studying abroad should consider registering for IDS 180. This one credit course is meant to introduce students to the challenges and opportunities of international travel and to provide them with basic tools for ensuring a successful study abroad experience.

STUDY ABROAD WALK-IN ADVISING

Monday – Friday: 8 AM – 5 PM
Location: 130 Lake Ontario Hall

Extended hours on Wednesday during the fall and winter semesters: 8 AM - 7 PM

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Fall Study Abroad Fair
October 9th, 2014
10 AM – 3 PM
Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center

Please encourage your colleagues and classrooms to attend the Fall Study Abroad Fair - PIC’s biggest event of the year! This annual event gives students the chance to meet program directors and past study abroad participants, browse international opportunities and start their own experience abroad. PIC also holds an annual Pew Campus Advising Day and Winter Study Abroad Fair.

FIRST STEP MEETINGS

Study Abroad First Step Meetings are informational sessions that go over all the basics of study abroad, including program options and the application process.

Wednesdays:
5 - 6 PM at 130 Lake Ontario Hall

Thursdays (fall semester only):
5 - 6 PM at 040 Mary Idema Pew Library

FUNDING STUDY ABROAD WORKSHOP

Students are encouraged to attend this monthly workshop to learn more about how to fund study abroad. Visit the website for exact dates.

IDS 180 CLASS

Students interested in studying abroad should consider registering for IDS 180. This one credit course is meant to introduce students to the challenges and opportunities of international travel and to provide them with basic tools for ensuring a successful study abroad experience.

STUDY ABROAD WALK-IN ADVISING

Monday – Friday: 8 AM – 5 PM
Location: 130 Lake Ontario Hall

Extended hours on Wednesday during the fall and winter semesters: 8 AM - 7 PM
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long are students abroad?
Programs can be as short as two weeks or as long as a year.

Are students required to speak another language?
No. Most programs offer courses taught in English, even in countries where English is not the primary language. Students should not limit themselves to English-speaking destinations.

What are the different types of study abroad programs?
Students can participate in:
- Faculty-Led Programs (short-term programs, typically during the summer, led by a GVSU faculty member)
- Partnership Programs (semester or year-long programs at one of GVSU’s 30+ international partner universities)
- Non-GVSU Programs (short or long-term programs sponsored by another university or organization)
- Internships Abroad (for academic credit placements)
- Independent Study Abroad (for academic credit projects or research opportunities abroad)

What academic requirements can a student fulfill abroad?
While abroad, students are able to take courses that will fulfill:
- Major requirements
- Minor requirements
- General education requirements (Foundations & Cultures, Issues)
- University requirements (Supplemental Writing Skills, B.A./B.S. Degree Cognate)
- Electives

Who advises students on academics abroad?
PIC recommends that students talk to their academic adviser and study abroad adviser about how study abroad fits into their academic plan.

How much does study abroad cost?
Study abroad costs range depending on the program a student selects. While some programs are similar in cost to a semester at GVSU, others are more expensive and some may be less expensive. There are about 15 GVSU programs that may save students money when compared to the cost of a semester at GVSU. Students may fund study abroad using financial aid, scholarships, grants and personal funds.

When can students apply for study abroad?
Students are eligible to apply after completing one semester at GVSU.

Why should students study abroad?
Study abroad has been shown to improve student retention rates and academic performance, increase employability and demonstrate strong personal growth amongst participants. Employers are increasingly looking for candidates with the type of skills developed during a study abroad program including cross-cultural communication skills, adaptability, resourcefulness, language proficiency and the ability to work in diverse teams.

CREATE A NEW FACULTY-LED PROGRAM
Faculty who are interested in forming a new faculty-led study abroad program should contact Elena Selezneva (seleznee@gvsu.edu)

All new programs will need to be reviewed by the GVSU International Education Committee. PIC recommends starting the process at least 1 year before you intend to start the program.

STUDY ABROAD 101 FOR ADVISERS

Academic advisers are encouraged to sign up for a Study Abroad 101 for Advisers session! These sessions cover topics such as types of study abroad programs, resources for advisers, course equivalency process, Padnos International Center updates and a Q&A session. For an updated schedule please visit www.gvsu.edu/pic.

Can’t attend a session? Contact the Padnos International Center to schedule a session for your department.

www.gvsu.edu/pic
ABOUT GVSU INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

During the Fall 2013 semester, GVSU enrolled 378 international students from 82 different countries. While there are many students on GVSU’s campus who have international backgrounds, the only students who are actually categorized as international are those on F1 or J1 visas, whose primary purpose is to study in the United States, and who are sponsored for their immigration status by GVSU. These students must meet GVSU’s academic standards as well as provide proof of English ability at the university level (generally by taking the TOEFL test). Of the 378 international students enrolled, more than 75% are seeking full time degrees at GVSU.

WRITING SUPPORT

Writing Center · The Fred Meijer Center for Writing offers excellent support to all students at GVSU, and they offer additional support to international students and students for whom English is a second language. International and ESL students may schedule a standing weekly appointment with a trained writing consultant. All students, international and ESL writers included, may schedule one-time appointments, visit during drop-in hours, and use the center’s online services.

Citations · In many countries, practices surrounding the idea of intellectual property are significantly different from those in the United States. This often leads to difficulty for international students, especially in correctly citing sources. Plagiarism and intellectual property are topics covered during the mandatory international student orientation. However, the information during orientation is presented during most students’ first week in the United States, and while the students have been exposed to the ideas, they probably have many questions and concerns that require follow-up. It is helpful if faculty state in their syllabi which method of citation (APA, MLA, etc.) is preferred. International students will benefit from discussing expectations regarding when and how to cite information from other writers. Additionally, it is helpful to direct students to purchase the appropriate style guide and to encourage the students to use the Writing Center. By appointment, students can work with Writing Center consultants to use SafeAssign to double-check instances of unintentional plagiarism.

Writing Samples · If appropriate, it is helpful to international students to see an example of a high quality assignment. Many times, international students turn to each other for assistance, and submit papers or assignments that would be appropriate in their home country, but have missed the mark in our system. If they are provided an example, many times, that helps them to change their initial approach, and leads to a much more positive experience.
LANGUAGE SUPPORT

International students have all had their language ability tested prior to being admitted. Sometimes students’ ability to perform well can still be inhibited by their English skills. International students may take ESL 098 and WRT 098 as courses to improve their skills, although those classes do not count towards graduation, so many are reluctant to enroll in them. Encourage international students to join Toastmasters to work on their speaking skills and to use the Writing Center to work on their writing skills.

Adaptive Technology · Much of the adaptive technology that is available to students with disabilities is now being used to help second language learners so that they can focus on learning rather than keeping up during class. Two of the technologies that are particularly impressive for international students are: LiveScribe and WynnWizard. Students can be referred to Disability Support Services at: 200 Student Services building, 331-2490.

CLASSROOM AIDS

Notes on Blackboard · If appropriate, international students appreciate having the lecture notes or outline prior to class. This helps them follow the lecture and course material.

Organized Study Groups · International students frequently seek each other out to study together. While PIC spends time in orientation discussing the fact that diverse viewpoints in study groups are helpful, international students don’t always know how to best approach domestic students to either begin or join a study group. Having faculty facilitate some sort of study group is helpful to international students and takes the pressure off of them.

Office Hours · International students are encouraged at orientation to visit each faculty member at least once a semester during office hours. Most international students do not come from an academic background where faculty are available for questions, discussions, or clarifications. Many professors find that international students open up and have questions focusing on difficulties with money, cultural transitions, locating grocery stores, etc. If you have a student with questions that you either do not know the answer to, or feel that the questions are not appropriate to be addressed to you, please feel free to refer them back to the Padnos International Center, 130 Lake Ontario Hall, 331-3898.

Professional Journals and Organizations · International students are probably familiar with international professional journals and organizations, but they can benefit from knowing the national, regional and local resources available to students in any particular major. If that information is available in the syllabus or course website, international students will use it. Frequently, they look outside of the course for information on acceptable styles, vocabulary, definitions, as well as trends in the field, conferences and career opportunities.

Academically Focused Student Organizations · This is particularly helpful for international students transitioning to US Culture. Participation offers an easy segue into meeting domestic students, potential friends, and certainly classmates. International students also have the same opportunities as domestic students to serve in leadership roles within student organizations. The disadvantage for international students is that many come from academic environments that did not include such a vast array of student organizations, so they may not even know that they exist.

HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR

The Padnos International Center has developed a resource for faculty, staff and departments that are interested in hosting international visitors and scholars. The ‘Guide to Hosting an International Scholar’ will help GVSU departments know how to determine the correct scholar visa, how to apply, what to do when the scholar arrives, and how to maintain the visa through the end of the scholar’s program.

View the guide online at www.gvsu.edu/pic or contact Padnos International Center for a copy.

(Left) GVSU President Thomas J. Haas hosting international scholar Dr. Naana Opoku-Agyemang, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana