

MSU Billings International Studies - A look back into 2021-2022



Take the trip
back with us!

DEAR FRIENDS,

It is my pleasure to share with you some of the good work we have been doing here at the Office of International Studies (OIS) at Montana State University Billings (MSUB). It has been a productive year here in our new offices in the Liberal Arts Building (7th Floor) on the main campus of MSUB in the heart of Billings, Montana.

We have welcomed a large number of new international students to campus over the past year, and as usual, these students have found great support in our Billings community. We have students from many countries and world areas but in particular, we have seen an uptick in students from India and from Turkmenistan. Since both of these countries have rather warm climates, you can imagine the transition they made to our Montana winters. The Billings Friendship Families (BFF) continue to offer great support to our students. Without the BFF volunteers, our students would not have acclimated to Billings so easily. If you are interested in learning more about the BFF or possibly joining, please see more information on BFF in this newsletter.

Our Title VI undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages (UISFL) grant from the International and Foreign Language Program at the US Department of Education has allowed us to grow our international programs and become regional center for Global Studies. For the first time since the founding of MSUB and thanks to UISFL and our partners in the Department of Modern Languages, we have been able to offer Korean, Japanese, and Chinese on campus for our students and the community. This aligns perfectly with new programs in East Asian Studies for our students, faculty and university community and also mirrors Montana's substantial economic engagement with that region.

There are many international programs and events on campus so please join one of our social media platforms to stay in touch with our office and join us as we connect our students to Yellowstone County, Billings, Montana and connect our community to the world. Finally, our hard-working office achieved several significant professional milestones this year. Alisa Batchelor earned her master's degree in International Education Leadership from the University of Montana and was promoted to be our International Student and Scholar Coordinator. Abby Cook completed advanced training through the NAFSA Academy and was promoted to OIS Assistant Director. I was honored to be awarded an Honorary Doctorate by South East European University (SEEU) in Tetovo and Skopje, N. Macedonia and was able to accept this degree in person.

Sincerely,

PAUL M. FOSTER, PH.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Check out our Social media for all sorts of fun information! →



UISFL



In 2020, MSU Billings and the Office of International Studies was awarded a significant three-year **Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages (UISFL) Grant** from the International and Foreign Language program at the US Department of Education. MSUB is collaborating with Northwest College on this grant.



For more information, scan this code!



MSUB and NWC are using grant funds to increase opportunities for undergraduate students to grow their global skills by:

- 1) accessing a new interdisciplinary Global Skills Certificate Program and International Studies Minor, focusing on East Asian studies and
- 2) increasing faculty expertise in Global Skills learning outcomes and East Asian studies in service of these programs.

Grant funds also are used to support students study abroad experiences to East Asia and faculty travel abroad to grow expertise in global studies.

(See the next page for all scholarship and grant recipients)

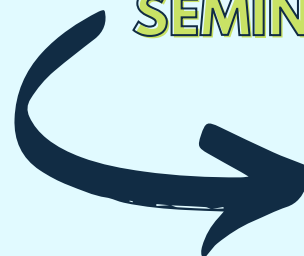
GLOBAL STUDIES SEMINAR

UISFL allowed OIS to host a **Global Studies Seminar** on April 22-23. We brought in East Asia experts Brian Dowdle (Ph.D) from the University of Montana and Lauren Collins (Ph.D) from Colorado University - Boulder.

The seminar consisted of three workshop sessions, along with a trip to the **Heart Mountain Interpretive Center** in Northern Wyoming. The Relocation Center was one of ten camps in the U.S. used for the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II and held close to 14,000 Japanese Americans from 1942-1945.



SCAN FOR SEMINAR DETAILS



UISFL Funding Recipients

Student Recipients 2021 Recipients

- Willow Peterson, Political Science – JAPAN
- Danielle Cutler, Communications – JAPAN
- Madaline Brown, Business Marketing – SOUTH KOREA
- Nathaneal Bundy, Business Management – JAPAN (Deferred to 2022)



"I want to practice inclusivity, appreciate people of different cultures, and encourage others to do the same. Getting to experience another part of the world for a full academic year will be a valuable experience and unique adventure that I will never forget."

Willow Peterson, Senior - Political Science, Org. Communication
2021-2022 UISFL Scholar for Prefectural University of Kumamoto, JAPAN

2022 Recipients

- Daphne Picard, Art – JAPAN
- Sullivan Huebner, Public Relations – JAPAN
- Nathaneal Bundy, Business Management – JAPAN (Deferred from 2021)

"An experience abroad would open me up to so many possibilities and ambitions that I do not have now. Living in a different country puts things into a perspective that I believe would be valuable to me whether in Montana, Japan, or any other country. ... I thoroughly believe that it will have a profound impact on the way that I view the world."

Nathaneal Bundy, Sophomore - Business Management
2021-2022 UISFL Scholar for Prefectural University of Kumamoto, JAPAN



"Korea is very different from what I know here in Montana, and I think this drastic change will be eye-opening, beneficial to gaining skills to help in school (adaptability and time management), and give me a chance to further my knowledge in my future career as a business marketer."

Madaline Brown, Sophomore - Business Marketing
2021-2022 UISFL Scholar for Hallym University, SOUTH KOREA

MSUB Faculty Travel Grant Recipients

2021 Recipients

- Jodi Lightner, MFA, Associate Prof. of Art – JAPAN
- Melanie Reaves, Ph.D., Assistant Prof. of Literacy Education – JAPAN

2022 Recipients

- Rodrigo Cortopassi Goron Lobo, Ph.D., Assistant Prof. of Management – GERMANY
- Jessie Perius, Ph.D., Fixed Term Assistant Prof. of Management – FRANCE
- Hope Dewell Gentry, Ph.D., Lecturer of Political Science – FRANCE
- Joseph Bryan, Ph.D., Assistant Prof. of History – JAPAN
- Jennifer Lynn, Ph.D., Associate Prof. of History – JAPAN



Above
All international students participating in food fair.

On March 23, 2022, MSUB hosted its 17th annual International Food Fair. With 11 countries and world regions participating, this event offered exotic food and cultural introductions. The MSUB and Billings communities were able to learn more about each country through fun activities and cultural novelties at each country's table.

Students were encouraged to decorate their tables and guests voted for their favorite table. The winning table was Turkmenistan, and the Turkmen students received MSUB hoodies as a prize for their hard work.



OIS International Food Fair



EAST ASIA SEMESTER

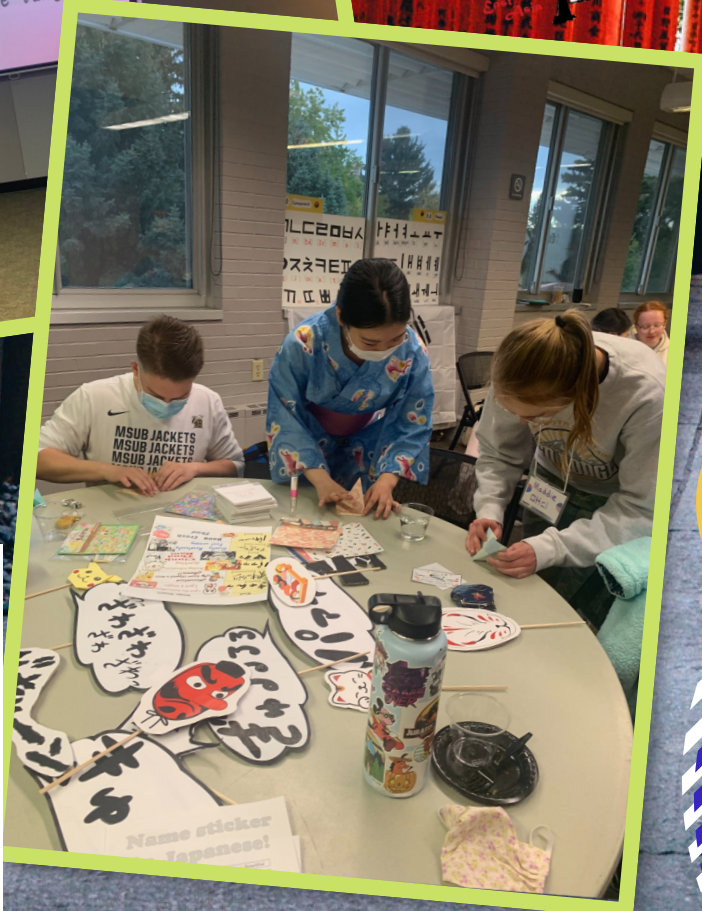
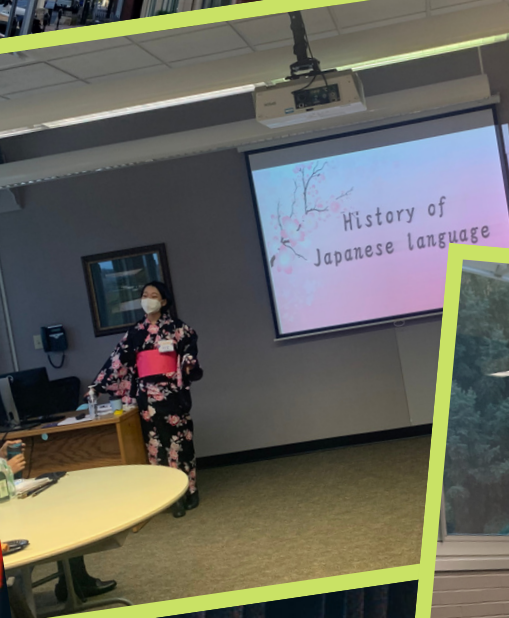
Fall 2021

In Fall 2021, MSUB hosted its first annual Themed Semester, which highlighted East Asia, to showcase the UISFL grant and new newly taught languages: Japanese, Korean and Mandarin Chinese.

Students, faculty and community members attended regular events to experience different aspects of East Asian culture. Participants were given East Asian passports in which students could collect stamps for every event they attended. Those who got the most stamps won prizes at the end of the semester.

Events included an East Asian film festival, guests lecturers covering a variety of cultural topics, culture and language workshops, music demonstration, East Asian food, and more.

Don't miss the Fall 2022 Themed Semester: France!



Scan here for more information on our themed semesters!



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EVENTS AT MSUB



"It was a great opportunity for international students, especially for Indian students... which gave us an opportunity to celebrate our festival Holi, including all traditions and food. It will be always a great memory for me."

Vikash Gupta, INDIA

"Having a Holi event was one of the best experiences I've gotten in my college semesters. Being able to learn and celebrate my culture as well as teach others with such an amazing group of people was truly amazing!"

Kavi Fix, USA

Our international students from India showed us how to celebrate Holi at MSUB!



2022 marks the Chinese Year of the Tiger. In the Chinese zodiac, tigers traditionally symbolize strength, bravery and wisdom. MSUB students brought in the New Year with Chinese New Year festivities.



First Year Seminar

The International Student First Year Seminar was designed to increase new international student success and to better prepare international students for college and everyday life in the U.S.

It also helped to build a strong sense of community and support among the students enrolled in the class!



Trip To Red Lodge, MT!



International Studies plans various excursions every year so students get an opportunity to explore Montana. One of those trips was to Red Lodge, a place everyone should visit for outdoor recreation. International students visited the Wildlife Sanctuary and Wild Bill Lake and enjoyed the downtown environment.

Memories

Check out our webpage!



Billings Friendship Family Program

"I am lucky to have the best BFF family, who has been supporting me throughout my undergraduate journey. Jordan became a mom away from home by being there when I needed her. She is caring and supportive and sent me the cutest 'you can do it' videos during my finals week."

-Bossan Abdyeva, Turkmenistan

"Having a BFF student in our lives has been so much fun! We get to show her our family traditions and learn about hers! We have made so many great memories on walks, over dinner, playing games, and even some adventures like cross-country skiing. It has been a great way to get some more "cultural experience" while never leaving Montana. Our daughters have a great role model and know more about Central Asia than any other kids in elementary school. I highly recommend having a BFF. You can fit it into your life as a professional and as a working parent. What you get out of it ends up being so much more than what you give! We are so grateful for this opportunity!"

-Jordan Teller, Billings Friendship Family

BECOMING A BFF FAMILY IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY! THERE ARE NO FEES OR OBLIGATIONS! JUST TO HAVE FUN AND GIVE STUDENTS GREAT EXPERIENCES IN MONTANA! TO SIGN UP, PLEASE FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE BELOW!





International Student Goodbye Party!



MSUB and International Studies recognized the many accomplishments of our international students at the end of the year international student party.



Certificates of Completion were given to MSUB's short-term exchanged students and recognition and gifts were presented to our graduating seniors.



Congratulations to all of our students for an amazing year! For those who are moving on, we'll miss you and are excited to hear of your endeavors. For our returning students, we can't wait to see you next fall for another great year!





We're looking forward to
another great year in
2022-23!

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