

## COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 18, 2004

This week, the U.S. Department of Education and Department of State are sponsoring International Education Awareness Week (IEAW). Students, faculty and educators in nations throughout the world are participating in events that focus on the importance of international education and relations. In Florida, our universities are hosting events that vary from seminars, to celebrations of foods and cultures, to economic development, to study abroad opportunities.

I want to share just a few examples of how our universities are involved and are being recognized both nationally and internationally.

Today, "Small Treasures: Microcredit and the Future of Poverty," a documentary by University of Central Florida film professor Sterling Van Wagenen, will debut at the United Nations. It focuses on an international effort to fight poverty through small loans and will be featured later on PBS.

The Association of International Educators will publish a major report this week that showcases U.S. colleges and universities that are making innovative, wide-ranging efforts to integrate global approaches to teaching into campus learning. The University of Florida is one of 13 U.S. colleges and universities featured in "Internationalizing the Campus 2004: Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities."

In a report released Monday by the Institute of International Education, UF and FIU were listed among leading institutions by Carnegie type (the top 40 Doctoral/ Research Institutions) with enrollments of international students.

Diplomats in residence are stellar individuals who have made their careers in international service and are assigned to a university for a year. For 2004/2005, three of the sixteen diplomats in residence are in Florida, the largest concentration of diplomats in residence in the nation. Earlier this week, all three were at UCF to speak with students and faculty.

They are:

**Harriet L. Elam-Thomas**, diplomat in residence at the University of Central Florida and former ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Senegal;

**Sylvia Gaye Stanfield**, diplomat in residence at Florida A & M University and former ambassador to the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam;

**Mark Boulware**, diplomat in residence at Florida International University and former United States Consul General in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Last evening in Tallahassee, FAMU and FSU participated in an event sponsored by the City of Tallahassee that recognized international students and their families who reside in Tallahassee.

As you may already know, our eleven Linkage Institutes help provide the State of Florida with partnerships in education around the world. Several of our universities have branches in other countries and all of our universities engage in exchanges or research across the world. As you can see from this brief overview, we do have "world-class universities."

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