

FSU welcomes three Global Scholars

L'Asia Brown
Voice Editor-in-Chief

Twenty years ago, college students prepared themselves to compete with graduates of other U.S. universities for jobs, upon graduation. Now, with the U.S. economy struggling to recover from a near depression, and an international economy almost as unstable, the playing field for jobs has become more competitive than ever before.

Students in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and Africa are sharpening their career skills and heading for the United States, often armed with the ability to speak several languages and a level of discipline and humility rarely found in American students.

At Fayetteville State University the word 'globalization' has perched itself among the administration's top priorities. To ensure students are groomed for the corporate world, colleges and universities across the nation are introducing them to languages other than Spanish and French. They are exposing them to customs and cultures through interactive programs and new language classes. Many schools are even sending their students abroad.

During an intimate welcome ceremony recently, FSU's International Education Center and Honors Program introduced three Fulbright Scholars for the 2010-2011 year. The scholars will participate in FSU's Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program.

With the brand new addition of the Department of World Languages and Cultures, the arrival of Bedour Al-Damkhi of Kuwait, De Chen of China, and David Otieno of Kenya is timely. Ms. Al-Damkhi holds a



Voice photo by Tony Nelson

Speaking passionately about her interest in learning more about other cultures, FSU freshman Maybelyn Rodriguez, center right, talks with Kuwaiti citizen Bedour Al-Damkhi, at left, recently during a welcoming ceremony for three new Fulbright Scholars at Fayetteville State University. Ms. Al-Damkhi is a secondary school teacher and one of the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants available to students and faculty this year.

bachelor's degree in English Education from Kuwait University. Originally a secondary school teacher, she will assist students in their studies of the Arabic language. Mr. De Chen earned a bachelor's degree in

English and a Master's degree in Chinese from the College of Humanities and Social Science. The Yanbian University Professor will assist students studying Chinese. Mr. Otieno graduated from the Uni-

versity of Nairobi with a bachelor's degree in Kiswahili, and will offer support to students studying Swahili. The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the

U.S. government and is designed to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries," according to the Council for International Exchange of Scholars.

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ing the students as well as faculty and staff on the locations of the emergency call boxes and enforcing good decision making for the protection of yourself and others."

"You are your best protection against crime," he said.

Commuter student Brandon Alexander knows this as well as anybody.

The FSU junior's car was broken into during his first year of commuting and his textbooks were stolen from the backseat of his car.

"I was terrified when I went to my car that night and the back windshield was crushed and all my books were gone," he said. "I had to pay for those books."

He now puts his books in the trunk. He also walks his girlfriend, Dana, to and from all of her classes at night.

"I pay more attention to my surroundings and I make sure not to flash any expensive items that I have," Mr. Alexander said. "I also installed a stereo with a detachable face plate because a lot of my friend's vehicles were broken into and their CD players were stolen."

You can never be too safe says Detective Michelle Lindow of the Fayetteville Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit.

"If it feels wrong, nine times out of ten, it is," said Mrs. Lindow. "Follow your gut instincts and do not be afraid to call 911 for

any reason. If you see someone who looks out of place, call 911."

She also has this advice for students, faculty and staff:

Never use shortcuts at night and always stay on the most well-lit and populated pathways.

Cover up your valuables in your car but do not make it seem as though you are doing so.

Write down your serial numbers on everything you have that is expensive and worth stealing. This way, if someone does steal it, you have the evidence to prove that it is your property.

Use your voice as a weapon. If you

ever are in a situation where you feel uncomfortable and you are by yourself, yell things such as "I do not know this person, call 911!" or "I see you and I am not by myself!" This will alert others nearby that you are in a dangerous situation.

Crime seems to never end but with the right guidelines and education to follow, you can maintain safety and ensure you never become a statistic.

For more information on how you can protect yourself and others, contact Chief Bryant at (910)672-2462 or Detective Michelle Lindow at (910)433-1034.