

## **International student count increases**

The student population of our university has increased considerably, expanding by 563 students over the last seven years.

« We have seen a steady enrollment growth in our international population for quite some time. From 2003 to 2010, we went from 290 international students to 853 », said Ryan Guffey, assistant vice president for Student Development. « That is something we have worked very hard to do and are very proud of the positive impact it has and continues to make on our campuses ».

According to the International Admissions Office, the most represented country this semester is France, which has 69 students, second is Canada with 65, followed by Panama with 60, Brazil with 50 and Germany with 37 students. Compared to the 2009 fall semester, the most representative nation was Canada with 64 students. Second was Panama with 52, followed by France with 51, Japan with 40 and Brazil with 39 students.

Students leave their country because they believe an American university degree will be beneficial in the future. In addition, some of them agree that studying in the U.S. is more economically reasonable when compared to their own countries. Guffey said students choose our university because of its facilities, quality faculty and excellent programmes

A junior student from France, Antoine Hardy, who is majoring in International Business, decided to leave his country because he already has a degree in France. Based on his grade point average, « I came to our university because I had a really good scholarship, and it is almost cheaper than if I go to a university that is not my hometown, » Hardy said .

Amanda Cassano, another international student who is a senior from Canada, also left her home to pursue better opportunities in the United States. She is majoring in Pre-Law and was offered an athletic scholarship at our university.

« I was given a full soccer /academic scholarship from my first school, and college soccer in Canada is not as good or competitive. Eventually, I would like dual citizenship and to practise law in the U.S.A. » Cassano said .

Our current international population university represents more than 90 countries. « We predominately use « grassroots efforts » or in other words, word of mouth from students, » Guffey said. « We rely on our current students to help recruit, but we also have significant relationships with governments and « sister schools » from around the world.