
THE SOUTHWESTERN

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Administrative Viewpoint

It seems like a new acronym shows up everyday. Just when I got used to EU for the European Union, the media came up with the BRIC countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, whose rapidly-growing economies put them on course to eclipse some of the richest countries in the world within the next few decades.

These clever bits of shorthand suggest to me that we are increasingly working in a world economy. The good news is that the Moundbuilders are prepared for it. This semester, we have visiting staff members from Brazil, Belarus, and Kyrgyzstan.

Adding them temporarily to a faculty that already boasts full-time professors born in China, Brazil and France gives a remarkable robustness to the quality of education Southwestern College students receive.

They are wonderful additions to our community and they bring our students both new perspectives and an opportunity for intercultural engagement. Plus, they are helping to make sure that our future graduates are prepared to embrace their service in a world without boundaries.



J. Andrew Sheppard
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dean of Faculty

Very Much Like You

visiting scholars add global perspective

Kishimjan Bektashova greeted her new colleagues at Southwestern College with a slide show.

“We are very much like you,” the soft-spoken nurse said. “You love to shop, and we love to shop.” And on the screen appeared a picture of a traditional Kyrgyzstan market, its stalls filled with colorful flowers.

Kishimjan is representative of a new type of international influence at Southwestern. In residence for the spring semester, she gives a perspective on world cultures that SC students (most of whom share a middle-class American perspective) would otherwise not have.

Dzmitri Korenko, a visiting scholar from Belarus, and Marlisa Wahlbrink, a member of the Brazilian national women’s soccer team now assisting with the SC women’s team, give additional world views in the visiting scholars program that has been established by Dean Andy Sheppard.

Some of these scholars teach classes, while others interact with students as coaches or mentors in ways that increase global awareness.

“If that happened all over campus, in everything we do, we really would have a world without boundaries,” Sheppard says.



Kishimjan Bektashova (center) wears traditional Kyrgyzstan dress as she greets faculty members Martha Butler and Nili Luo.