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## ISSO welcomes new director

By *Jennifer Charney*, OU Staff Writer

When David Archbold was in high school, he wasn't convinced that going to college was a good idea. All it took was a stint in Germany as a high school exchange student for him to decide on a career that would draw on his German language skills.

Archbold's interest in international education ran deep enough for him to make it his career. Now he is the new director of Oakland's **International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO)**.

Archbold joined OU on Oct. 29 after five years as assistant director of Foreign Student Affairs at Eastern Michigan University. Before holding that position, he served as EMU's program manager of International Cooperative Education Exchange. Prior to that, he was an International Placement Specialist at EMU.

Archbold's other experience includes serving as a program manager and job developer and then department head at Tinkham Rehabilitation Center in the Employment Services Division of Wayne/Westland Schools. He also was an employment training specialist and job developer at Washtenaw Association for Retarded Citizens in Ann Arbor.

The California native holds two degrees from EMU – a Master of Arts in educational leadership and a Bachelor of Arts in international business and language, with a minor in marketing and geography.

He chose Oakland partly because of its growth potential.

"You couldn't ask for a better location," he said. "We're surrounded by international and domestic businesses. I think it's a great place for international students to study. Oakland's international student population has only one way to go – and that's up."

Oakland has 265 international students and about 285 scholars from 46 nations. The ISSO plays an important role in helping international students adjust to aspects of American culture, including the health care and tax systems. Archbold's duties include advising international students on personal, academic, financial, cultural and immigration matters; maintaining OU's compliance with state and federal laws regarding international students; and ensuring that Oakland policies meet the needs of international students.

Archbold's plans include developing scholarships for international students, just as he did at EMU.

"International students would get a scholarship once a year for their service to Oakland University and the surrounding community," he said. "I started that at EMU and within two years, we had a \$10,000 endowed scholarship just from student fund-raisers and some donations from faculty and staff."

Archbold also would like to develop more internationally focused programs and classes on campus. Another plan is to provide opportunities for OU students to meet and interact with international students. At EMU, he started a successful course in which international students were paired with American students. Informally, the American and international students met at least three or four times during the semester. The American students learned about the international students' countries and the students would get to know each other. At the end of the semester, the American students wrote a paper about misconceptions and things that they learned about their cross-cultural partner.

"It would be nice if I could start that here," Archbold said. "I think I paired some people up that normally would never have come together. I made it convenient for them to get to know about somebody from another country. And once you get to know someone from another country, you start thinking about going there, studying abroad, and it really expands your horizons."

So far, Archbold is impressed with the OU community. He asked several international students if they have heard of anyone facing discrimination because of the September terrorism.

"Nothing serious has happened here to our international students, which, I think says a lot for the campus because people here understand that what's happening over in Afghanistan doesn't necessarily mean that all Middle Eastern students support what happened in New York," he said.

Some international students have visited him to discuss their concerns about the war.

"They're frustrated," Archbold said. "They don't know how to help. They don't support what happened. There's not a whole lot any of us can do. I guess the best thing we can do is to move on and remember that just because somebody comes from another part of the world doesn't mean they support this kind of terrorist act."

When he's not working, Archbold, of Ypsilanti, enjoys gardening and refinishing furniture. He is a Rotarian and a member of the Ypsilanti school board. He and his wife, Teresa, have two children, Ian, 10, and Ann Marie, 3. Teresa teaches third grade in Ypsilanti.

**SUMMARY**

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