

International Studies Professor's Desire Fulfilled



With great zeal and hard work, International Studies (IS) professor reaps the product of her enthusiastic endeavor. When Dr. Margaret King took over the leadership of a fledging International Studies degree program at Chicago State University in the summer of 2014, with only less than a handful of students, her drive and passion were to grow the program and watch her students graduate. It was a thing of joy for her to see her class of 2016 students participate in the May and December commencement ceremonies. "What a great privilege to realize your vision!" She echoed.

In a matter of a couple of months, Dr. King had vigorously embarked on an intensive marketing and enrollment effort to create awareness of the only IS baccalaureate program in Illinois. The campaign generated new interest and grew the program over 1000% with both majors and minors. Getting all hands on the deck with International Studies Faculty Committee and Global Students Council, a students' club she created, a new integrated and supportive family was formed. A newly created IS website housed the research-based restructured program curriculum. Several planned national and international recruitment outreach events, with rigorous advising schedule were inevitable.

In a bid to stimulate university-community global partnerships to develop practical sustainable projects, she created the Global Institute of Sustainable Development. This premier institute launched the same year, generated a great deal of buzz as it brought international dignitaries to campus. The highly commendable event created global visibility for international studies; enhanced opportunities for cross-cultural exchange; produced local internship and service learning collaborations with global firms in the greater Chicago area, as well as study abroad experiential programs. The institute, also a recruitment and retention tool for the IS degree program, organizes several workshops throughout the year to promote research, student leadership; faculty-student interaction outside the classroom; and practical training with cultural immersion.

As IS program strives to produce informed and effective global citizens, the high caliber of graduates produced by the program boast of some international professional experience under their belts, a practical boost to their resumes. A good percentage get hired by their internship sites even before graduation. Appointed the CSU's Delta Chapter Adviser of Sigma Iota Rho, SIR, the International Studies Honor Society, she works with her juniors, as well as senior thesis students to produce publishable articles for SIR and other professional journals.

Despite recent challenges faced as a result of the State of Illinois budget impasse and consequently, the recent university restructuring, Dr. King truly feels blessed and rewarded by the graduation of the first batches of her students. This sentiment was loudly expressed during the graduation parties characteristically organized to celebrate students' achievements. Kudos Graduates!



**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
GRADUATION PARTY**

*Please join us to celebrate our Fall 2016 graduates
(with Sigma Iota Rho, International Studies Honor Society Informational)*

DATE & TIME: Friday, December 23, 2016; 4pm

VENUE: Yassa African Restaurant,
3511 S King Dr, Chicago, IL 60653

Individual orders, please!

RSVP: mking30@csu.edu or 312-217-0967

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

International Studies



**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
GRADUATION PARTY**

April 26, 2016, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
SCI, Room 213

mking30@csu.edu or 773-821-2809

