

## ***The Global Training Initiative adds short-term research and internship programs***

*By David K McNeill*

*NC Global Training Initiative Coordinator*

In 2007 The Global Training Initiative (GTI) at NC State began offering certificate programs to international students for short-term study at the university. In 2008-09 GTI expanded its programs to include short-term research and internship options.

The new research program provides NC State faculty and students from overseas universities an avenue for the students to perform full-time research at NC State's main campus or one of its extension sites. Students may be undergraduate or graduate students, receive a J-1 visa, and do research for 2-6 months. One of the reasons this program has become popular is that there is no tuition involved, only about \$450 in fees plus living expenses. The students also benefit by having access to the student health center and other campus services and being covered by liability insurance

Beginning in the summer of 2009 GTI is offering a full-time internship program for overseas undergraduate students. This program allows NC State faculty to invite undergraduates to spend 2-12 months at the university or one of its off-campus industry partners in on-the-job training. The fees are similar to those of the research program but with a focus on gaining valuable work experience as part of the undergraduate student's education.

Offering certificate, research and internship programs, GTI has seen significant growth in its first two and a half years. The initiative began with one student in 2006-07. That number was increased to 14 in 2007-08, 56 in 2008-09 and is projecting 150 in 2009-10.

### *Grants and Professional Training Programs*

In addition to the study, research and internship programs, GTI hosts short-term training programs in partnership with on-campus units and NC businesses.

In the fall of 2008, GTI was awarded a grant through the US Department of State to host 20 Brazilian students to study the US elections. In partnership with the *School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)* the students studied at NC State for 10 days and concluded the program with four days of meeting with officials and visiting important sites in Washington DC. In 2009 GTI is applying for several grants in partnership with various academic units on campus.

In 2008 GTI also developed and implemented three week-long professional training programs for overseas partners of NC State. Each customized program focused on the needs and interests of the overseas delegation. Training topics included business, banking, education, computer science, English as second language, and university administration.

Anyone interested in learning more about GTI can contact the GTI coordinator, David K McNeill, at [gti@ncsu.edu](mailto:gti@ncsu.edu) or visit the web site at [www.ncsu.edu/gti](http://www.ncsu.edu/gti).