

Quo Vadis Unioeste? Striving towards an international university

The internationalization of the universities around the globe has become an imperative due to various educational, cultural, economic and political motivations. In this sense, higher education institutions are seeing internationalization as means to improve the quality, relevance and pertinence of their education, research, innovation and outreach. The main perception is that the opening of new spaces for international projection and linkage with worldwide academic networks will enhance and consolidate values such as cooperation and solidarity in the institutional culture and expand employment opportunities for alumni, ultimately boosting their rankings, reputation and prestige. Nowadays, in greater or minor intensity, most Brazilian universities, as well, jumped on the internationalization bandwagon. Likewise, did the Western Paraná State University – Unioeste by strengthening the institutional ties with the top tier global universities, our neighboring partners and strategic institutions all around the globe. Although there is a long way before we can truly breathe the praised multicultural en-

vironment promoted by the internationalization into our realities, several initiatives in this sense must be recognized and appraised. Striving towards an international Unioeste is a commitment that the entire academic community must take in an orchestrated manner. Professors, students and staff must all help hereupon either by disclosing the institution abroad in order to recruit academics and researchers; hosting international visitors; learning and teaching in foreign languages; validating the credits of courses taken abroad by students; or even helping institutionalizing practices that stimulate the international cooperation of the university. This issue of the Western Paraná Herald brings the latest advancements of the effort of the administration, faculty, staff and students regarding the internationalization of Unioeste as a whole.

Prof. Rafael Mattiello
Associate International Officer
International Office (ARI) - Rectorcy

Institutional Improvement

Unioeste inaugurates university restaurants

After over 20 years of waiting, Unioeste finally inaugurated the university restaurants. This huge achievement, which is considered one of the most important factors for student permanence in the University, was made possible after partnerships between Unioeste and the federal government to make one restaurant in each campus. In the city of Toledo occurred the first inauguration, in September 2016. Next was in the campus of Marechal Cândido Rondon on April 2017, followed by Cascavel and Francisco Beltrão in that same month. All of them charge US\$ 0,74 per student, while the University pays US\$ 1,19 per meal trough an agreement. For general staff, the fee varies between US\$ 1,51 and US\$ 2,09. Foz do Iguaçu followed the same path, with two new Restaurants inaugurated in august 2017 – one for the main campus and another for Itaipu's technological center.



Unioeste's Rectorcy - Cascavel Parana

Unioeste enhances its reputation and prestige

Regarding quality rankings, Unioeste is on a growth stream. It has been mentioned in several national publications as one of the best Brazilian universities. Abril "Guia do Estudante" (Student's Guide) published a list grading undergraduate courses from 1 to 5 stars, and two of our university courses were graded 5 stars, Executive Secretariat and Agricultural Engineering, and many others, 4 stars. The publisher Quacquarelli Symonds pointed Unioeste, on its QS Top Universities ranking as the 201st best university among the BRICS countries, and the 181st amid the Latin American institutions. On the other hand, the ranking compiled by the Spanish National Research Council – CSIC Webometrics defined our university as the 407th on BRICS, 150th on Latin America and the 2341st on the world. In 2017, the Brazilian Ministry of Education (MEC) has elected the best universities in Brazil. Evaluating the undergraduate courses of the institutions, Unioeste was elected the 36th best of the country, and the 7th among state universities. The Brazilian ranking "Ranking de Universidades da Folha" – RUF classified Unioeste as 44th on education, but the 138th on internationalization. Looking at all the rankings, we can see that, in their methodology, the topic internationalization is a summarily important element on the ranking, and that on every evaluation Unioeste's lowest grades are on this area, indicating the importance of the International Office and the work put forward to increase the university's insertion and reputation abroad. For the Provost of Undergraduate Studies, being amid the 15% best universities in the whole world is the result of Professors, staff, students and management personnel for Unioeste's growth.



Internationalization: Quo Vadis?

The International Office of Unioeste held, on June 2017, a workshop entitled “Internationalization: Quo vadis?”, which aimed to discuss the perspectives and advancements regarding the complex process of internationalization, and how it can be achieved. The event counted with the presence of three lecturers, one from Unioeste and two foreigners: Carmen Célia Bastos, from the campus of Cascavel; Marcellus M. Caldas, the International Officer of Kansas State University and Mariano A. Pacher Morel, the Rector of Universidad Nacional de Canindeyú, Paraguay, these three speakers talked about specific issues regarding the internationalization process of the universities. For the International Officer, Pery Shikida, “the first workshop on internationalization at Unioeste shows that the institution aims toward a new trend on universities around the globe, that is internationalizing, which can be considered a huge institutional improvement for our Unioeste”.

Unioeste at FAUBAI Conference 2017

The International Office represented Unioeste at FAUBAI Conference 2017, which took place in FIERGS' Convention Center in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul. FAUBAI (Brazilian Association for International Education) is an association that groups up to 180 Brazilian Higher Education institutions, which aims integrating its members through student exchange and international cooperation as a mechanism to improve the teaching, researching and extension triad, as well as helping the affiliated institutions to internationalize. The annual conference organized by FAUBAI is considered the biggest on international education in whole Latin America. According to Mattiello, “discussions on emerging issues on university internationalization strategies such as social responsibility, inclusion and innovation brings Unioeste to the forefront of contemporary debate. In addition, the disclosure of Unioeste makes cooperation with foreign institutions possible, facilitating the internationalization process at home as well as creating a favorable environment for the joint development of projects and mobilities for the entire academic community”.

The Internationalization of the Higher Education Institutions of Paraná

The International Office, participated at the V “Seminário de Internacionalização das Instituições de Ensino Superior” (Seminar on the Internationalization of the Higher Education Institutions of Paraná) –SIIES, which took place in the city of Curitiba. The management of the Internationalization from an institutional perspective was debated with experts from the Global Initiatives department of the University of Arizona, Prof. Mike Proctor, and Santa Catarina Federal University's (UFSC) International Officer, Prof. Luciane Stallivieri. The other state universities also participated on

the seminar: Maringa State University (UEM), Londrina State University (UEL), Ponta Grossa State University (UEPG), Midwestern Paraná State University (Unicentro), Paraná State University (Unespar) and Northern Paraná State University (UENP). Given Unioeste's advances on this area, it's been decided among Paraná state International Offices that the next Internationalization seminar will take place at Unioeste in October 2017.



Unioeste reaffirms its commitment on internationalization

The Superior Administration, through Rector Paulo Sérgio Wolff is showing a strong commitment regarding the postulation of making Unioeste become an important institution on the international arena. Brazil is going through an economic restructuring and every sector, public or private, are feeling the impact of budget restraints. Here at Unioeste, nothing is different. In the end of 2016, some adjustments were implemented, which contemplated International Office's operation, impacting its functional structure. The International Office would like to thank the commitment shown by every staff member that was involved on the sector's growth. Special gratefulness to Carolina Panis, Jéssica Backes and Wellington Ferreira, whose passage through our sector proved their competency and responsibility on all tasks designated. In 2017, The Paraná State Government, as well as Unioeste's Superior Administration, showing reliance on the performance of the sector, granted the International Office with 2 new personnel: one trainee – Gabriela Daiana Christ – financed by Paraná Fund which is managed by Paraná's Science, Technology and Higher Education Secretary (SETI), and also acquired one intern – Lucas Macoris Vieira – whom came to add on Professors Pery Shikida and Rafael Mattiello's team responsible for the implementation of the internationalization strategies in a way that contemplates the whole university transversally. For Prof. Pery Shikida: “the hiring of these professionals ensures the full functioning of the services offered by the International Office. Besides that, reaffirming the Paraná State Government and Unioeste's commitment on adopting internationalization as a strategy for the growth of our institutional prestige among our peers

Cooperation with Europe

Unioeste promotes mobilities under the Erasmus framework

Erasmus is a European Union's program for students, educators and workers from universities to promote all kind of mobilities from traineeship, studies, as well as cross-countries internship cooperation with enterprises. Unioeste has participated in three Erasmus programs that were granted by the European Union (EU): Alfa III, eurekaSD and Erasmus+ partner universities. Besides that, Unioeste is part of two other Erasmus programs that are under evaluation. Alfa III is a cooperation program between the EU and Latin America, promoting higher education as a means of social and economic development and struggle against social inequal-

ity. Alfa III was the first institutional project funded by the European Union that Unioeste participated. The success of this endeavor, which resulted in much mobility for staff and faculty, stimulated other academic efforts in this sense. The second initiative under the auspice of European Union's Erasmus is the eurekaSD partnership, which includes 9 European and 11 Latin American Higher Education Institutions as well as 40 associated partners. The main goal of this ongoing program is to support international education and research on transdisciplinary topics related to sustainable development. This project, also, allowed a few inbound and outbound mobilities. Last year two professors from Nikola Vaptsarov Academy, Bulgaria, visited the campus of Cascavel, Toledo and the Rectory of Unioeste. In return, Prof. Elizandra da Silva went on a fieldtrip to our partner in Varna, Bulgaria. Regarding student's mobility, eurekaSD enabled two academics from Rhein-Waal University to study a semester in Toledo. The last EU funded program is Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai's (UBB) Erasmus+ partner universities, which allowed 6 inbound and outbound staff mobilities, and 4 inbound and outbound student mobilities. In 2017, Unioeste, as part of a consortium submitted two Erasmus proposals that are under evaluation by the EU's committee. The International Office provided know-how to the professors engaged in these projects. For Mattiello, "participating in such proposals is not only important for the reputation of Unioeste, but also allow our faculty, staff and students to go on a mobility funded with a scholarship provided by the European Union. Here at the International Office we stimulate and provide consultancy services regarding the Erasmus programs".



Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai and Unioeste

UBB and Unioeste established a very proficuous cooperation, which has already engaged several inbound and outbound study, training and teaching mobilities. In this regard, on February 2016, two Masters and one Doctoral students from Unioeste were selected for a four month scholarship in UBB. Thereafter, in March of the same year, Prof. Pery Francisco Assis Shikida represented Unioeste's International Office in a meeting at Cluj-Napoca, Romania – funded by Erasmus+ program. During his visit, the Professor established deeper alliance between the two academic institutions. After enhancing and firming the universities' partnership, it was possible for one UBB student, Claudiu Şulea, from European Studies, to come to Brazil with an ERASMUS scholarship in 2017. On his arrival, Claudiu addressed to the Economy Sciences freshmen the lecture "What matters to me and why?" Still under our strategic cooperation with UBB, from 5 to 9, June 2017, Rafael Mattiello represented Unioeste at UBB's International Week, strengthening the existing bonds between UBB and Unioeste, besides creating new academic internationalization channels around the world.

Évora and Unioeste strengthen cooperation

Prof. Maria Leonor de Carvalho, from the Universidade de Évora, Portugal, visited the 5 campuses of Unioeste on August 2016, the Portuguese professor was invited by the International Office to deepen the collaborative ties between both universities and minister the lecture "Limits and potentialities of the European agriculture in the XXI century". For Maria Leonor, "Unioeste is a very important partner of the Évora, which makes her feel at home here in Brazil. Another important aspect to mention is that the internationalization of this university of Paraná gained an extraordinary boost with this new team in the International Office"



Cooperation with Latin America



Unioeste strengthen cooperation with Latin American

Zicosur is a public-private association that scopes inserting its participants on the globalized world, highlighting economic, social and cultural exchange as instrumental keys for economic growth in the Midwest South America to happen. Six countries are associated to Zicosur: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Peru. Unioeste participated on the I 2017 Rector's Plenary of Zicosur Universitaria (event to promote university exchange among Midwestern South American institutions) on May 2017. The reunion was organized by Universidad de Salta's (UNSA) Rector, Prof. Antonio Fernández Fernández, and by Londrina State University (UEL) Rector Prof. Berenice Quinzani Jordão, current ZICOSUR Universitaria President. The Vice-rector of Unioeste, Prof. Moacir Piffer, together with International Officers Pery Shikida and Rafael Mattiello, represented our university on this event and granted that the next plenary is due to be held in Foz do Iguassu, with Unioeste as host on October 2017.



The state of Paraná increases cooperation with Paraguay

Unioeste together with Unicentro represented the Higher Education System of Paraná on a mission to increase cooperation with AUPP (Paraguayan Public Universities Association), through the presence of the International Officer Pery Shikida and Associate International Officer Rafael Mattiello. The meeting was held on April 2017, in Ciudad del Este. Coordinated by the AUPP president, Prof. Adolfo Pacher, the meeting aimed strengthening existing bonds and developing new academic programs. Prof. Pacher emphasized that the meeting was of utmost importance, emphasizing that Paraná's universities could boost their internationalization by perform outreach activities outside Brazil, exploring the partner Paraguayan universities.



Immersion in Unioeste of students from Tucumán

A group of approximately 15 students from the Portuguese language course of the Normal Higher Escola Normal Superior de Línguas Vivas João Batista Alberti, province of Tucumán - Argentina, participated in different activities, such as intensive immersion in the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture and interaction with undergraduate students. Our agreement besides this visit, aims to promote seminars, workshops and lectures both here in Brazil and in Argentina.

Unioeste students visit university at Santa Fé, Argentina

Students from the Graduate Program on Pharmaceutical Sciences visited the Universidad Nacional del Litoral (UNL) in Santa Fé, Argentina, on the first field trip from Unioeste to UNL. This official visit aimed to promote meetings with researchers from UNL, in order to get acquainted with the innovations, services and researches developed on our neighboring country, striving towards partnerships for internationalizing the Program. Unioeste's students visited several labs and other institutions, making possible for them to experience the work routines as well as the university engagement with regional companies.

International Cooperation between Unioeste and UNITEPC in Bolivia

The Vice-rector of Unioeste, Prof. Moacir Piffer, together with Unioeste's International Officer Pery Francisco Assis Shikida and the Coordinator of the Medical Sciences course, Antonio da Silva Cristovam visited Universidad Tecnica Privada Cosmos – UNITEPC, in Cochabamba, Bolivia between November 30th and December 4th 2016. They traveled with the purpose of establishing an international cooperation between Unioeste and UNITEPC. They dialogued about future joint actions, as well as the benefits and the needed actions for maximizing student exchange.

Researcher from Unioeste lectures in Bolivia

Prof. Jandir Ferrera de Lima, faculty member of the Graduate Programs on Regional Development and Agribusiness and Economy of the campus of Toledo of Unioeste participated in the seminar "Y Business" in UNITEPC, Cochabamba, Bolivia. During this time, the Professor ministered a series of conferences about "Empreendimento y competitividad" (Business and Competitiveness), talking about themes such as regional development, entrepreneurship, innovation, professions and economic development. The activity is a result of the effort put in internationalizing Unioeste among Latin American institutions.

Cooperation with USA

Joint-research between Unioeste and Illinois on post-harvest loss

Through its International Office, Unioeste signed an agreement with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which invested in our university for completing a research that aims answering the question: How much crop is lost in the field? The joint project between Prof. Mary Arends-Kuenning, from Illinois, Prof. Pery Francisco Assis Shikida and Prof. Rafael Mattiello, both from Unioeste, scopes diagnosing the main aspects surrounding post-crop loss though applying surveys to small, medium and large rural producers, ultimately improving rural men life quality. For Prof. Rafael Mattiello, having the renowned University of Illinois as an international partner in

this endeavor brings huge potential for Paraná's academia. On his words: "the expansion of Unioeste's international relations through this joint project brings visibility to one of our university's main areas, such as for the region itself, besides reducing the post-harvest loss, boosting our productivity".

Cooperation with Africa

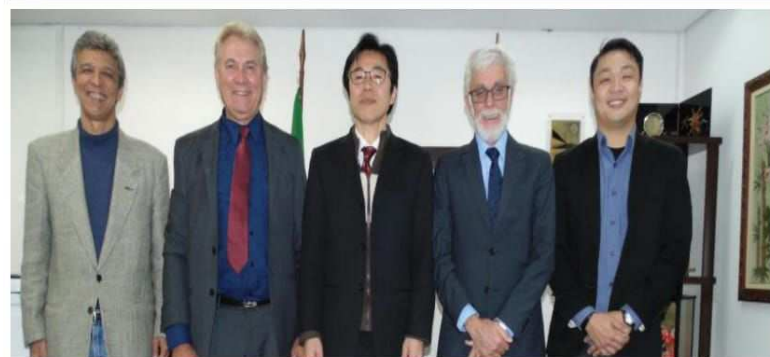
Unioeste in Ivory Coast

Prof. Nyamien Yahaut Sebastien, from the field of Fishery Engineering spent, on May 2017, a month installing aquiculture pilot-units and capacitating the local community of Bouaké, in the Ivory Coast regarding the project "Sustainable development on Fishery and Aquiculture in Ivory Coast".

Mozambican Institution Prospects Collaboration with Unioeste

On June 2017, the Provost for Research and Outreach of the Inhambane Higher School of Hospitality and Tourism in Mozambique, Prof. Heli Amiro Motany de Albuquerque Azevedo - visited the Campus of Foz do Iguaçu. The Mozambican professor was particularly interested in strengthening collaborative ties with the Hospitality and Tourism course, especially concerning exchange possibilities, as well as their strategies for alumni insertion in the market.

Cooperation with Asia



Unioeste prospects cooperation with Japan

The Rector of Unioeste, Paulo Sérgio Wolff, the Vice-Rector, Moacir Piffer, the International Officer, Pery Shikida, and the Director of Physical Planning, Rodrigo Suzuki, met the General Consul of Japan in Curitiba, Mr. Hajime Kimura, on June 13, 2017 in order to strengthen international relations with Japanese universities and companies. Mr. Masayuki Inomata, a Japanese resident in the city of Cascavel for decades, stimulated this visit. On that occasion, Rector Wolff briefly presented the reality of Unioeste in terms of faculty members, students, undergraduate and graduate programs and area of coverage of this important Higher Education Institution of the Western and Southwestern regions of Paraná, as well as received information of Japanese culture and prospects for further cooperation on the part of the Consul. In return, a visit of the General Consul of Japan to the Unioeste was scheduled for the month of July 2017 for more specific negotiations of forms of cooperation. According to Prof. Pery Shikida, "in the summary of the Report of the Panel of Intellectuals on Partnership with Nikkei Communities (descendants of Japanese) in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) stimulates projects to encourage partnership between governments and local academies, the economic sector and Nikkei communities".