Jennifer Kelley interviewed in Newsweek!

IPC’s own International Admissions Coordinator, Jennifer Kelley, was featured in a Newsweek article published on February 1, 2018. Written by Kelly Mae Ross, a reporter with Newsweek who regularly covers university and higher education issues, the article, “Prepare for a U.S. College Admissions Interview”, touched on several important factors international students to consider when interviewing at American universities.

Though often nerve-wracking, “Interviews can be an important component of the college admissions process. They help schools determine whether applicants are a good fit and, in the case of prospective international students, evaluate English language skills.” Kelley is wise to then point out that admissions will be looking for students who go ‘above and beyond’, and recommends that students do their homework on their desired school. “There’s only so much that you can understand from paper,” Kelley is quoted, encouraging students to come ready to engage at the university interview about things not immediately found on their website.

To read the article in full please visit the Newsweek site. If you have questions for Jennifer Kelley about international admissions or retention, please contact her via email, jkkelley@uncg.edu.

La Llave Maestra performing Nomadas

Little did I know the strength and persistence of our community in Greensboro. People came out of the woodwork to assist with the project. UNCG provided funding from all corners of the university. Neil Reitzel, owner of Sticks and Stones and Fishbones, immediately came forth to support our Chilean guests by offering gathering places for meals. Michael Frierson offered three weeks of free housing for the Artistic Directors in his AirBnB. Pricey Harrison spent time brainstorming possible funding sources and solutions in an hour-long phone call.

Attention UNCG Faculty and Staff! Are you interested in serving on our Study Abroad Search Committee? Our study abroad interviews are conducted once per semester. You may volunteer for both or just one. If interested, please contact our office at (336) 334-5404 or via email at ipc@uncg.edu and ask to speak to Denise Bellamy, Director of Study Abroad & Exchange or Tom Martinek, Jr., Assistant Director of Study Abroad & Exchange.
La Llave Maestra performing Nomadas

conversation. Josh Sherrick offered to disseminate promotional materials throughout Greensboro. ArtsGreensboro embraced the production as part of the 17DAYS Arts & Culture Festival. Neighbors offered to promote the event on Facebook. The list goes on and on. There are far too many people to thank and mention. Suffice to say, my heart is full of gratitude for everyone in our community.

The North American premiere of Nomadas occurred on October 29, 2017. It was a tremendous success. The company then stayed in residence for 3 weeks to work with UNCG students on their craft. The experience will never be forgotten.

I look forward to building on the relationship that began in 2017. La Llave Maestra and I are writing our next grant application at this very moment. Here’s to continuing the journey of global connections … and, hopefully, the return of a phenomenal theatre company from South America to UNCG.

Faculty funding for international activities

The International Travel Fund (ITF), created by the Provost's Office, supports ca. 50 UNCG faculty members per year to present their work at international conferences outside North America. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and processed typically within two weeks of receipt. Faculty may apply once per year every two out of three years. To apply for ITF funding, please visit http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/faculty.html.

A portion of the Kohler Fund, established in 1991 with a bequest from the estate of Phyllis Penn Kohler, class of 1930, is dedicated to supporting faculty internationalization efforts in six areas (research, teaching, internationalizing the curriculum, student programs, special projects, and institutional linkages).


New collaborative degree plan between UNCG and Guangdong Ocean University in China

Doryl Jensen, Jennifer Kelley, International Admissions Coordinator at the International Programs Center-UNCG, and Bill Brown, Associate Dean of the Bryan School-UNCG, working with Chen Tao, Director of Financial Mgt-GDOU and Du Jun, Director of Business Administration met on on September 7, 2017 to firm up plans for a 3+1+1 articulation agreement between the two universities.

Faculty funding for international activities


Coalition for Diversity in Language holds first annual conference

On Saturday, September 23rd the Coalition for Diversity in Language held its first annual conference in the School of Education Building from 8:45am to 5:00pm. According to its website, the CDLC conference “explored what it means to teach today’s evolving youth in ways that foster their diverse languages, literacies, and cultural practices.” They did this by bringing together educators to think about issues related to language and culture in education. Specifically, they want to prioritize the needs of diverse students to create more equitable conditions for those who represent diverse language and cultural communities in our educational system. The symposium was sponsored by, in no particular order, The Coalition for Diverse Language Communities, The School of Education’s Dean’s Office, The College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office, The UNCG Provost’s Office, The Kohler Foundation, the Department of Teacher Education and Higher Education, the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, the Humanities Network and Consortium, the University Teaching & Learning Commons, and The James D. and Johanna F. Yopp Endowment. These thoughtful donors were not only able to make the event possible, they were able to offer free registration for attendees, as well as lunch and snacks throughout the event.

Upon reflection, Zoch reported that she “left the conference feeling so energized and ready for change!” She also noted that the three keynote speakers did an excellent job of presenting their work to a diverse group that included students, teachers, faculty, and staff, and that the breakout sessions were also stimulating and begat thought-provoking discussion. All in all, the conference was a great success! Though this year was the first year putting this together, UNCG intends to make this a yearly conference. Until next year, CDLC! If you would like to get involved or would like further information on making education more culturally diverse, please contact Melody Zoch.

Want to learn more about Global Engagement Course Development Award

Faculty may download a Global Engagement Course Development Award application from [http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/gepcdapplication.docx](http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/gepcdapplication.docx).

Katya Davis: UNCG Study Abroad Student

If there ever was a cheerleader for study abroad, Katya Davis is it. I stumbled upon this advocate for the international experience at our annual Study Abroad Expo, an event that showcases the various programs and excursions that the International Programs Center offers, often in conjunction with departments across several subjects. Her excitement recounting her adventure was infectious, and made me miss my own study abroad experience. She spoke with me briefly about her time in the Cáceres region of Spain.

Katya: So my name is Katya Davis and I studied at the University of Extremadura in the Cáceres region, Spain. I was there in the Spring.

Megan: What did you love about it?
How did it change your life, if it did?
Would you recommend it to other people and why?

K: First of all, I would highly recommend study abroad to anybody. A lot of people initially think that Study Abroad is not affordable, just, like, it’s something I can’t do, I can’t fit into my major, and you just need to talk to IPC. I’m an international global studies major-

M: Wow! You can really go anywhere!

K: So yes, speaking of that, I applied to a different school at first, but too many major specific students who needed to be there to take their science classes, or whatever, so I got put in my second choice- and I could not be more thankful for that! Like I told him, thank you so much for not picking me to go to Toledo. And I travelled all over and I visited the city I would have been in and it just wasn’t for me. So, um, I liked my city in...
par’cular because it was a really authentic Spanish city. I really, really want to get more students to apply to Cáceres. I feel like when students think of Spain, they think of Grenada or Toledo, but this city is really particular in that, like I said it’s really authentic, only 90-100k people there, but it feels like a real city, everything is really close, kind of the whole city is in it’s own little area. There were a bunch of little shops near me and the bus system was great, very accessible. Yeah, so I really, really recommend my city for that.

In general, I would recommend speaking with IPC. Have them put you in contact with others who have studied in those cities, and that can really help you out. Because a lot of majors like nursing or math, think that they can’t go- but like I said there were all those bio[logy] majors headed to Toledo! So it just depends on what you’re looking for. We have tons and tons of different programs for different majors. Like my friend who is a media studies major, he was kind of like, ‘yeah i feel like a lot of places won’t have my program…’ but then it turns out there is a small art school in Spain that offered it! But, yeah, tons of different programs for lots of different majors.

In terms of the affordability thing, that was like a big deal for a lot of my friends who didn’t study abroad, who i kept saying ‘you can afford it, you can afford it’. And I always recommend the semester program, because in my opinion that’s easier in terms of the money exchange. It’s basically paying UNCG for school, which you have to pay anyways, so you pay and you get your refund back, and you can use it! Umm so that was something I really didn’t understand until I started doing the application process. My sister for example is looking to go to Italy for the summer, so I thought about doing a summer program first, so for me and my financial situation I would have to take out more loans to pay for that, whereas doing it during the semester, the exchange was the same.

And of course, in my opinion and everyone I’ve spoken to, it goes by too fast.

M: You don’t get a true sense of where you are because you’re just running around being a tourist

K: Yeah it’s super super packed, and if that’s your way of living and you always want to be busy, then yeah do a summer program, you’re always going to be busy. You’re always going to be doing stuff, blah blah blah, but if you’re a person who likes to soak in the culture and have some time to chill then do a semester program. So in the beginning I was definitely ‘uhh I don’t want to talk to anybody, my Spanish isn’t that good…” and I’m going to stick with the international students. But there was a guy in my class, Spanish guy, and he would talk to me everyday and I couldn’t understand what the heck he was saying...

M: Oh that’s so nice!

K: Yeah! So he like forced me to talk in Spanish. So we would practice in Spanish, and then he would go, okay English! (Mimics Spanish guy) ‘Hallo, how are you?’ And that was it (laughter). And that was the lesson of the day. But then we started emailing and he would ask about American Politics and Black Lives Matter and all this stuff that was really important that the world needs to know about us, as the world generally doesn’t have a positive perception of America right now. So I think going on a semester program will help you be that cultural ambassador that I think America needs. America needs people to go out and say ‘this is what it’s really like to be an American! Don’t believe the media and TV! It’s not all bad!’ So
yeah we have some issues, but let me tell you about all the great things we have to offer too. So that aspect of [studying for a semester vs. a summer]. And then having a semester, you can travel more.

Travel was a HUGE part of my experience, and because I met so many study abroad people in the fall [during orientation] at UNCG who were studying abroad, that in the Spring I got to meet up with two of them. So, meeting up with people, knowing people, like anywhere you go there is going to be international students from other countries, like in Europe there is ERASMUS. So like, if you want to go back to that continent someday, can meet up with them and have a place to stay! And that was something that was really really important to me.

So, some advice, something I wish I had done better, is to plan travel! I should have planned travel. It's hard, I get it, because didn’t know my schedule. Like the kids in ERASMUS had already picked their schedules, but we couldn’t register until we got there. And in typical Spanish time it took a long time to get us registered. And now it’s I have all my stuff, what am I supposed to do? We’re used to having our class schedules like T/Th from this time to this time, but this was like M/W/Th and Monday it’s going to be 1:00 pm, and Wednesday at 4:00 pm and Thursday will be 3:00 pm, with a different classroom each time.

M: Oh man!

K: It takes a lot to kind of get used to, but at the same time, made me pay attention more. So once you have your schedule locked down, or whatever, try to plan travel as soon as possible. You’re studying abroad- it’s okay to miss a few classes to travel for the experience. Take advantage of your breaks! Take advantage of the time in beginning when you’re not doing any work, to plan everything out. Talk to people, find friends, because it will be more affordable planning ahead with other people.

As our conversation wound down, I asked her if she had any favorite anecdotes from her time in Quesada. Katya began to regale me with a story of her French friend, Tiphaine, and their night at a restaurant together: “One night in Spain, I made plans to have dinner with my French friend, Tiphaine, at a taperia downtown. We spent about three hours there, chatting and eating tons of 1€ tapas. I had various nights of dinners and tapas with other international friends, but this was a particularly defining moment for me. Tiphaine spoke virtually no English--maybe two or three sentences. And I speak no French. So the only way we could communicate was in our somewhat broken Spanish! There are so many times when studying abroad in a non-English speaking country where you think, ‘This is too hard,’ or ‘I can't say what I want to say in this language,’ but in these few hours with her, I did not think that once. We talked about everything: travel, classes, friends, and our lives back home, and because we were speaking so passionately with each other, I was not self-conscious about my Spanish. I was speaking and thinking too quickly and excitedly to let my fears of not having ‘perfect’ Spanish cross my mind. In this moment, I saw the true power of language: allowing two girls from completely different nations and cultures to be best friends through one mutual way of speaking.”

Coming together across cultural borders is really what the study abroad experience tries to do!

**Interested in studying abroad?** The first step is to set up an appointment, by calling our office (334-5404), stopping by (207 Foust Building). Our receptionist will be happy to set you up for a study abroad "options" appointment, where you will learn the basics about our exchange programs.

**International Students**

**Uruguay presents at Friday Fest**

Domestic and international students gathered on Friday September 22 for IPC’s near weekly Friday Fest- an event that spotlights a particular country with native students at the helm of the presentation and festivities. This particular Friday, students gathered for a presentation on the small but fascinating South American country of Uruguay.

Students from Uruguay thank the assembled audience.
The native presenters were delightful and excited to share information and food from their home country. The presentation was engaging and really funny with the presenting students gently ribbing one another and the audience about their knowledge of Uruguay. First they tested us on our flag knowledge, which I admittedly was terrible at, but luckily the eating of delicious treats was something I could definitely participate in. They brought traditional beef sandwiches called “chivitos” and scrumptious dulce de leche cookies called “alfajor de maicena” for everyone to enjoy. Both items were gone in a flash, proving their broad appeal to the presentation goers. They also spoke of maté, a traditional hot beverage, that is served traditionally in a calabash gourd with a special metal straw.

Next, we got a mini geography lesson about where Uruguay was, what bordered it, its internal regions, and its capital. Questions were proposed to the group, and those answered correctly earned the respondent a trinket from Uruguay. The audience appeared to enjoy this and all the keychains were swiftly doled out. I particularly enjoyed hearing about their former president José “Pepe” Mujica, who has been described as “the world’s ‘humblest’ president” due to his frugal lifestyle. He was known for his regular donation of around 90 percent of his $12,000 monthly salary to charities that benefit the poor and entrepreneurs.

The group then viewed several gorgeous pictures of the Uruguayan landscape and listened to some traditional and modern Uruguayan music. Both were very upbeat and definitely lended themselves to dancing! Lastly, the presenters touched on a few recent social movements that the country has seen. Of particular interest was that Uruguay has only had legal abortion since 2013, and passed legal marijuana and marriage equality the same year.

Everyone had a blast learning about and enjoying Uruguayan culture, and we look forward to seeing more students at the next event!

If you are interested in learning about other cultures in a fun and low-key way, join us for Friday Fests!

To learn more about Study Abroad opportunities at UNCG, please call IPC at 336-334-5404 or visit Foust 207 to schedule your Study Abroad “Options” appointment.
planet, and lastly, profit. Following table discussions with UNCG faculty, students were treated to a performance by Josephus III and his Poetry Café.

The two-day conference was an excellent way for students to network with other students, community organizations, and faculty while learning about leadership and social activism. All food and transportation were provided for free, and participants received a completion certificate. Student attendee, Jessica Kelley, commented that “The conference was a great experience! I was able to interact with a diverse group of students who shared the common interest of positively impacting our community. It provided the opportunity to meet with local non-profit organizations, brainstorm our own ideas of service, and create an action plan of how we can make our goals a reality. I would highly recommend this conference to everyone, mainly because of how it changes your perspectives of social justice issues and learning how you can make an impact through working together with others.”

This opportunity could not have come to fruition without our valued community partners, which include the following: The Barnabas Network, Black Diamond Backyard, Citizen’s Climate Lobby, Environmental Stewardship Greensboro, Greater High Point Food Alliance, Out of the Garden Project, Mobile Oasis, New Arrivals Institute, and Reconsidered Goods. Thanks is also extended to our Resource Fair Participants: the International Global Studies department, the Lloyd International Honors College, the Global Leadership Program, and the Office of Leadership and Service Learning.

INTERLINK students at International Peace Day

INTERLINK students from Venezuela, China, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait celebrated International Peace Day with UNCG students on September 21, 2017. Joining a world-wide tradition to commemorate this special day, students learned to fold paper cranes. Sources:

NEW MIND and the Jack Ma Foundation

“Before my visit to U.S., I thought that American teachers are paid very well, that school principals have a large budget to manage, and that American students are not disciplined. The visit completely challenged my views,” said Mr. Guozhao Xiong.

Mr. Xiong was one of the 18 visiting principals from China who participated in the 15-day leadership development program hosted by New Mind Education, UNCG’s International Programs Center, the UNCG School of Education, and UNCG’s Principal Preparation for Excellence and Equity in Rural Schools (PPEERS) program.

The leadership development program was sponsored by the Jack Ma Foundation and a critical component of the Foundation’s Rural Principal Initiative is to promote leadership and management skills of principals in rural China. Many thanks is due to Ye He, TESOL faculty and SOE Dean’s Fellow of International Programs, and Michael Chen, the managing director of New Mind, who wrote the grant for this program. Their work competed against several prominent schools, including Harvard University, to bring the program to UNCG.
The Jack Ma Foundation hopes that the principals can broaden their horizons, build confidence, and improve leadership skills through a visiting program to the U.S. and New Mind Education has extensive experience and resources in leadership training and global education. We were honored to be selected as the host of the overall program and have the opportunity to contribute to the meaningful cause,” said Chen.

In 2016, the Jack Ma Foundation launched the Rural Principal Initiative to select 20 outstanding rural principals annually and support each with significant resources. The 18 visiting principals were the first-ever winning cohort, selected out of 5,000 applicants from across the country, several representing ethnic minorities.

The overall visiting program consisted of a visit to New York City, an eight-day program at UNCG, and a visit to the University of Virginia and the St. Anne’s-Belfield School in Charlottesville. The eight-day leadership training program at UNCG was made possible through a collaboration between New Mind Education, the UNCG School of Education, and UNCG’s PPEERS program.

At UNCG, the Chinese principles participated in expert-led seminars, discussions with school and district leaders, and workshops and reflections for action planning. The most memorable experience for many of the principles was the field visits to the five rural schools in North Carolina.

“The school visits were my favorite part,” said Principal Shaolin Shu. “I was able to observe at first hand how U.S. schools approach and assess differentiated instruction. I saw and learned so much from the visits.”

New Mind had three learning objectives when they were working with UNCG to design the program. They want principals to have a better understanding of U.S. education, to engage in meaningful conversations on student development with their American counterparts, and to build the vision and skills to make changes to their schools.

New Mind understands that effective intercultural communication (not just translation) is the key to achieving these goals, so they put together a strong team of staff as Cultural Ambassadors. The team speaks fluent Chinese and has a deep understanding of the U.S. and Chinese education systems. They provided the context and fill in the gaps for the conversations between China and U.S. educators.

According to statistics cited by the Jack Ma Foundation, China has more than 200,000 rural principals overseeing the work of tens of millions of rural teachers and the education of 300 million rural children. Most of the rural principles in China, including the visiting group, were promoted to become school principals directly from teaching positions, and thus have not had professional training in Educational Leadership and Management.
The challenge for New Mind was to design and implement a program to share the most applicable knowledge and best practices to the Chinese principles within such a short timeframe.

“We were glad that we were able to utilize all the experience and resources we had accumulated over the past years and invited over 20 experts in education leadership to participate in the dialogue.” said Michael Chen.

“Without UNCG and New Mind Education, the visiting program would not have been so impressive, unique and unforgettable,” Tingting Huang, project manager for the Rural Principle Initiative wrote in her thank-you letter. “We hope that in the future we can continue to work together to support rural education in China.”

This panel facilitates UNCG’s goal of making the study abroad experience accessible and inclusive to everyone. The event was so successful, students have requested that this discussion occur each semester. See you in the Spring!

For more information about this and other study abroad events, please contact the International Programs Center at 336-334-5404.

Visit the SAE website at http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/sae/study_abroad_exchanges.html.

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**Staff Stories**

**Brown and Abroad: Racial & Ethnic Minority Students Abroad Meet-up & Discussion**

For the second year, IPC hosted Brown and Abroad: Racial & Ethnic Minority Students Abroad Meet-up & Discussion during International Education Week. The meet-up and discussion was facilitated by Denise Bellamy, Senior Director of International Programs and Director of Study Abroad and Exchanges and co-created with April Dunovant, UNCG Middle College.

New higher education research advocates for targeted support networks for underrepresented populations in increasing study abroad participation. Ms. Bellamy saw this in her own Master’s research on increasing participation in these demographics and spearheaded the discussion’s inception. True to the research outcomes, students were delighted to have a peer-to-peer discussion on what is means to be ‘brown and abroad’.

Five study abroad returnees enriched the discussions by sharing their personal experiences as a minorities abroad. The students included: Kristena Armwood (studied abroad in France), Melchor Ornelas (studied abroad in Germany), Danielle Parker (studied abroad in Germany), Katya Davis (studied abroad in Spain), and Jazzmin Robinson (studied abroad in Peru).

Denise guided the group of more than 25 students and a few faculty through discussions exploring the navigation of identity abroad, engaging in challenging conversations, and even managing ethnic hair while studying abroad.