36th Annual International Festival, April 14, 2018!

IPC’s April is swiftly approaching and the IPC and students are gearing up for the iFest 2018 excitement. What is iFest you may ask? According to its International Student Association hosts, “iFest promotes cultural awareness, appreciation and understanding through the mediums of music, food, crafts, demonstrations and entertainment from all corners of the globe. iFest is an event open to the UNCG family and the general public during which you, your families and friends may come to experience and learn about the diverse world in which we live as iFest brings the world to you!” Having never been to an iFest personally, I reached out to a student who has participated for the last several years, Hanan Al Shaqsi, about its importance:

What group do you contribute with? - Oman

What made you want to participate? - I never miss the opportunity to talk about my country and share our costumes, traditions, history, and food with everyone. Especially that I come from the middle east and I practice Islam, I always like to correct people's misunderstandings about us and help them get rid of the stereotypes they've grew up hearing about us. I have been a loyal participant of the iFest for four years straight. I just love iFest, love learning about different cultures and try their food as well. It is just an extremely precious opportunity to explore the world in less than a day. And the best part is that it's for free.

What are you excited to share with participants about your culture? - I enjoy talking about my country because not everyone knows about Oman and its history. I like sharing my favorite costumes and traditions, let them try on our outfits and try our food.

What do you hope visitors take away from iFest? - The fact that I come from the Middle East, I really hope that they would change the perspective on us. It is always good to come to these types of events with a clear heart to take the most of it. I also hope they open up their eyes to what's beyond the borders and encourage themselves to travel the world and discover themselves.

What’s your favorite part of iFest? - EVERYTHING, honestly.

With such resounding praise, it’s easy to see why this has been such a beloved event! If you would like to participate in iFest as a student group, entertainer, or vendor, please fill out this form. If you would like to participate as a volunteer, please contact Megan Adkins at ipg_news@uncg.edu.

Faculty Features

Critical Pedagogy and Transformative Leadership Congress, Turin, Italy

The Critical Pedagogy and Transformative Leadership Congress was held in Turin, Italy from September 28, 2017-October 7, 2017. The conference, held annually in October, has also been held in Grenada, Barcelona, Sicily, Malta in the past. Rochelle Brock, Professor and Department Chair of Educational Leadership & Cultural Foundations at University North Carolina-Greensboro, attended. While Dr. Brock had participated before, this past year’s Congress was particularly special as she had student participants participate with her.

According to the group’s Kohler Grant write-up, “Unlike traditional conference methods, the Congress implements the Bellagio model of conferencing, which is based on a process developed by the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Centre. This method includes ‘bringing together diverse groups of scholars, teachers, students and community workers working in forums to create productive, positive change through research,
Piney Lake should lend itself well to a Bellagio style conference. Due to its walking trails, two lakes, and ample seating space, owned property about eight miles south of the mail campus. It is their hope that the Congress will “[help] those in attendance [begin] to understand the significance of deep dialogue as it relates to people finding the ability to connect across difference and begin to work together to address social justice and other issues that negatively affect our community.”

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. Please see here for a list of faculty who have received ITF funds for the present academic year. 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). Please see here for a list of faculty who have received Kohler funds for the present academic year. The upcoming deadlines for the 2017-18 academic year are Sept. 15, 2017; Oct. 20, 2017; Jan. 19, 2018; or Mar. 16, 2018. To apply for Kohler Award funding http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/faculty.html.

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.

To learn more about Fulbright opportunities, visit http://fellowships.uncg.edu/ or contact Patrick Lilja, Coordinator of Prestigious International/National Fellowships at pililja@uncg.edu.

Because of its “un-conference” style, the Congress wanted to give the attendees a first hand look at some of social justice issues in the community. For this hands-on community day, the attendees were split into four groups, based on where they would visit: local schools, No Tav (a community activist group), community baths, and a feminist community. UNCG’s group was chosen to visit the community baths. Houses in the community they were visiting were built without bathroom facilities, so the community baths were a very important to the members of the city, especially the migrant and immigrant workers who were the primary residents of these bathroom-less homes. These facilities helped solve the social justice issue of basic hygiene, while also serving as a place for congregation and community.

Attendance, however, was not all in the name of visiting Italy; part of the students’ responsibility was to “learn enough about the Congress and how to design and deliver such an experience at UNCG”. According to their website, Bellagio-style conferences “are intended to establish and strengthen connections across disciplines and geographies. They encourage dynamic, small group interactions, and promote innovative and creative thinking—all in a serene setting conducive to focused, goal-oriented work.” To facilitate this, a former Mafia controlled convent, Oasi Maria, was chosen. Oasi Maria is surrounded by beautiful the Turin landscape of walking trails and ample outdoor seating, enabling the “Walk and Talks”, where two people discussed matters at hand. In addition to the conference sessions, dialogue was further encouraged during down time with family style meals. Being the few graduate students attending, LaToya, Erica-Brittany, and Frannie enjoyed rubbing elbows with community activists, program administrators, and scholars from around the world.

Plans are coming together for a similar conference held by UNCG in September of 2018 at Piney Lake- a 48-acre UNCG owned property about eight miles south of the mail campus. Due to its walking trails, two lakes, and ample seating space, Piney Lake should lend itself well to a Bellagio style conference. Ideas are coming together about how to spend time with participants in addition to “Walk and Talks”, and there will almost certainly be S’mores by a fire.

Lastly, much gratitude and thanks are due to the Kohler Grant, a grant that supports research, special projects, student programs, teaching, and internationalizing the curriculum, which made this excursion possible. The money afforded the group accommodations, food, flights, and transportation. Without it, these invested women would not be bringing such an event to Greensboro for the UNCG community to benefit from. It is their hope that the Congress will “[help] those in attendance [begin] to understand the significance of deep dialogue as it relates to people finding the ability to connect across difference and begin to work together to address social justice and other issues that negatively affect our community.”

pedagogy, and leadership’ (Steinberg). To employ this ‘un-conference’ model, along with social activism (the theme of the Congress), the conveners set up community visits, dialogical style presentations, and daily self-care practices.” This piqued the interest of three students- LaToya Brown, Erica-Brittany Horhn, and Frannie Varker. They had attended Brock’s PhD course, “Critical Pedagogies for Communities of Color”, a class focused on critical pedagogy, social justice, and how these theories impact communities of color. The social justice focus of the conference, as well as the opportunity to visit Italy, was something that they just could not miss, and according to Dr. Brock, the students “begged to go!”
UNCG hosts EducationUSA for training session

Back in September, EducationUSA utilized UNCG as one of its locales for a training session with a few international guests—Ms. Dana Salch of Lebanon, Mr. Gao Linprasert of Thailand, and Ms. Shanti Thapa of Nepal. The requirements were to visit three schools within one hour of each other with different missions. The advisors spent three days in Greensboro and visited A&T, UNCG, & the School of the Arts. According to its website, “EducationUSA is a U.S. Department of State network of over 425 international student advising centers in more than 175 countries. The network promotes U.S. higher education to students around the world by offering accurate, comprehensive, and current information about opportunities to study at accredited postsecondary institutions in the United States.”

The UNC International Student Recruitment Consortium, a higher education organization that “works to bring more highly qualified international students to participating campuses by increasing awareness of the campuses in international markets and to assist campuses in building their capacity to ensure the success of those students”, applied for the visit and did the overall planning. Tuesday, September 19 was UNCG’s day, and it was hosted by Lauren Hudson and Sue Gandy of the International Programs Center. The day kicked off at the Foust building where our international guests met several UNCG heavy hitters in the international studies department: Nell Pynes, Associate Provost for International Programs, Denise Bellamy, Senior Director of International Programs and Director of Study Abroad and Exchange programs, and Giovanna Alessio, Interim Director of INTERLINK Language Center.

After the peek at the International Programs Center, the group wandered down to the School of Education and were introduced to Lori Sands, Director of Michel Teaching Resources Center, Jewell Cooper, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services/Professor of Teacher Education and Higher Education, Ye He, Associate Professor of TESOL & SOE Dean’s Fellow of International Programs, and Dr. Randy Penfield, Dean of the School of Education. Discussion on the successes of our School of Education and how it differs from the guests home countries followed.

Following a brief meeting and discussion with Tommy Lambeth, Associate Professor/Undergraduate Program Coordinator, the EdUSA crowd headed to lunch at Moran Commons in front of the fountain. A campus tour oriented the guests before the final Q&A and wrap up for the campus portion of the visit. A short break was provided before a tour of Greensboro Project Space and The Forge in downtown. Dinner was then served at the well beloved local restaurant, Café Europa.

UNCG is always delighted to host informative guests and share what makes UNCG unique. For more information about EdUSA, please visit https://educationusa.state.gov/. Interested in the international happenings around town? Please sign up for the IPC newsletter by contacting Megan Adkins at ipg_news@uncg.edu.

UNCG students under the tutelage of Professor Pat Wasserboehr went to Pisa, Italy to study stonemashing

Pat Wasserboehr has been an Associate Professor at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro for nearly three decades, where she was Head of the School of Art from 1998 – 2010. A talented sculptor, Wasserboehr was invited to participate in the The Digital Stone Project in Gramolazzo, Italy in the month of June 2017. The Digital Stone project is a unique international collaboration with the company GarfagnanaiNnovazione that brings artists, educators, architects and students to the Tuscany region for technical training on CNC machines, digital technology classes, and stonemashing workshops. The program provides a state-of-the-art digital facility equipped with computers, software, 3D printers, and 7 axis robotic carving arms. This opportunity offers residents time
to realize projects, share research, and exchange ideas. As participants they had full access to the DSP facility and an outdoor carving studio.

Wasserboehr, however, did not go by herself. She invited graduate student Chelsea Tinklenberg, first year MFA sculpture student, and Claire Stromberg, recent BFA Sculpture graduate, to join her. Wasserboehr, Tinklenberg, and Stromberg were among fourteen participants who were selected through a competitive process to attend the program. In preparation for the program, Tinklenberg and Stromberg met with Director of the School of Art, Chris Cassidy, to learn how to use Blender, a 3D software program, and design their sculpture prototypes in the virtual space of a computer. Wasserboehr met with them throughout the academic year—assisting them with their sculpture designs, DSP applications, grant writing, and sharing her knowledge of Italy and the program.

Tinklenberg and Stromberg produced very impressive sculpture models that were sent as a file to the DSP and "rough cut" in marble by a 7-axis robotic carving arm. They arrived in Italy to spend a month and hand finish their sculptures. Stromberg created a wonderfully composed three-part sculpture. Tinklenberg received the student award for her sculpture titled "Loud" and her sculpture will be installed for a year in Gramolazzo’s park. The sculptures were represented in an international group exhibition titled "Metamorphic Resonance" at art gallery Sala Ex Marmi in Pietrasanta, Italy for the month of July.

UNCG is proud to support opportunities like this as they enhance research experiences, provide significant cultural immersion, professional mentoring, educational collaboration, and links the School of Art to the world of cutting edge fabrication technologies. Additionally, the attendants were also very grateful for support from the Kohler Fund, the Office of Undergraduate Studies, the Graduate School, and the School of Art, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts for help with funding our tuition and travel.

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.

New Mind’s Charleston Exploration: A weekend filled with adventure, teamwork, and history

This spring, our New Mind UNCG students visited the historical and charming port city, Charleston, for a 3-day trip. While there, they enjoyed several of the many activities that the seaside city has to offer, including beachside bonfires, kayaking, shopping, and historical tours.

On our first night in Charleston, we visited Sullivan’s island beach, where the students learned how to roast sausages over an open fire, build their own s'mores (a new experience for many), and how to keep a campfire going. After everyone was fully stuffed -- going through seven packages of sausages in 30 minutes -- we set out to play some fun team-building games. The games were aptly called ‘Glowstick Olympics’. Each of the students received their own glowstick wristband and necklace, and were challenged to solve puzzles together, play capture the flag, navigate around the beach on team building skis, and to work on communication skills. The students even developed their own competition: glowstick long jump! Needless to say, everyone had a fun (albeit exhausting) first evening in Charleston.

The following morning, our New Mind group set out, bright and early, for Mount Pleasant, Charleston. There, we met up with a team from Nature Adventures for a guided kayak tour of Shem Creek Park. The students split up into pairs and each took their...
own tandem kayak. For many, especially those who had never been kayaking before, learning how to navigate a tandem kayak proved to be a healthy lesson in cooperation. Without good teamwork, paddling, steering, and maneuvering through the narrow channels of Shem Creek would have been impossible. Although there were some arguments amongst partners to start, by the end of the tour, everyone was able to move around with ease. Several of the students came up with a chant to help with timing each paddle stroke. After kayaking, the New Mind group enjoyed a delicious international meal from Istanbul Shish Kabob, a Turkish buffet restaurant in Charleston. The meal was also a new experience for the students, since many of them had not tried food from the region.

On Saturday afternoon, students were given a couple of hours of free time to explore the area around our hotel, which included outlet malls across the street. Afterwards, we headed out as a group to downtown Charleston, where the students learned about Charleston’s trading history and could appreciate the wide variety of street art and music that downtown had to offer. Most important, for a lot of the students, they got to try Charleston’s seafood!

On our last day, we visited the Magnolia Plantation and Gardens and took the Slavery to Freedom Tour. During the tour, students learned about the U.S. slave trade, the role that slavery played in Charleston, and the lives of slaves on the Magnolia Plantation itself. They also learned about the Civil War and the lives of former slaves at the end of the Civil War and during the Jim Crow era. It was eye-opening for the students to learn about the extreme hardships that slaves went through, from the high death rates during transportation from Africa, to the harsh climate they faced on the plantation. On a daily basis, slaves faced venomous snakes, disease carrying insects, hunger, dehydration, and exhaustion. Even if they survived the long journey from Africa to South Carolina, their life expectancy remained very low. The trip to the Magnolia Plantation proved to be an important lesson in U.S. history for our Chinese New Mind students.

In all, the New Mind spring trip to Charleston proved to be a resounding success. Our students gained new experiences, new friendships, unforgettable memories, and learned a lot about Charleston and American slavery history. We’re already looking forward to our next historical trip to the mountains of North Carolina this fall!

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

**Global Engagement**

**University Libraries hosted a Diversity and Global Engagement Expo**

We are truly fortunate to attend and work for a university that so excitedly celebrates diversity and multiculturalism. There is effort made to make all students feel welcomed and accepted and to encourage native students to step out of their comfort zones. Events are held regularly and are a testament to UNCG’s globally minded endeavors. This was true this past week as the University Libraries hosted a Diversity and Global Engagement Expo on Wednesday, January 31, 2018, from 2 – 5 p.m. in the Reading Room on the first floor of Jackson Library. The expo featured a collective sharing of music, food, culture and values. UNCG faculty and staff facilitated conversation promoting the importance of diversity and multiculturalism on campus with a panel discussion at 4 p.m.

Having never been before, I was excited to see what the event had to offer- particularly the food! I was greeted by the rhythmic music of UNCG’s percussion ensemble, who played island inspired ditties and got the crowd grooving. Nearly the
whole reading room had become a mini walking tour of the world. Tables from different international clubs had been set up, as well social justice advocacy groups. I wandered throughout enjoying the discussions, exploration of different cultures, and yes, the food! I particularly enjoyed the honey cookie from South Korea, but there were treats and snacks from all corners of the globe.

As the festivities wound down, people began to gather for the panel discussion on the importance of diversity and multiculturalism. Finally, there was a drawing for prizes for attendees. While I did not get to walk away with any of the door prizes, I did walk away with renewed pride for my university’s diversity efforts. It’s a wonderful thing when we can all come together and learn from one another. Many thanks are due to the event’s cosponsors the UNCG International Programs Center and the UNCG Student Government Association.

INTERLINK visited by a special group of students from the Proyecta 100,000 Program

This term INTERLINK is being visited by a special group of students from the Proyecta 100,000 Program. The Proyecta 100,000 program is a government funded month long study abroad program for Mexican and US students. It was put in place to enhance relations between Mexico and the United States. The end goal is that 100,000 students will cross the border both ways and become educated about each culture. While the students are visiting with us they attend INTERLINK at UNCG’s intensive English classes and we schedule events that enhance their cultural understanding of the United States. In order to celebrate Halloween, event coordinator, Heaven Pearce, took the students on a journey to the past. Students visited the Carolina Renaissance Festival in Huntersville, North Carolina. While there, the students were able to attend many different performances ranging from acrobatics to jousting. For all of the students, this was the first time they had ever seen a real life joust and they were very impressed. The Proyecta students will be with INTERLINK until November 18th. During this time the students will visit Raleigh, North Carolina to visit the Mexican Consulate and travel to Asheville N.C. to tour the Biltmore Estate. The INTERLINK faculty and staff are excited to be hosting a group of Proyecta students for the third time in a two year period. Please join us on Friday, November 10th for our Friday Fest Presentation in order to meet the Proyecta Students learn more about their culture!

INTERLINK students at the Renaissance Festival

**Staff Stories**

**Staff changes/additions**

**Sarah Richardson** is the new Administrative Coordinator at IPC. When she attended UNCG, she studied abroad in Mannheim, Germany through IPC. More recently she worked at the Graduate School at UNCG and the National Park Service in the Outer Banks and North Carolina mountains. She is very excited to return to Greensboro and UNCG and is looking forward to supporting IPC and its daily operations.

**Stephanie Guzman** was recently promoted to the position of International Programming Coordinator. Previously, Stephanie worked as IPC’s HR Liaison to coordinate many office events, hire and train new employees, and organize programs like the German Fulbright Summer Institute. She is thrilled to begin her new position, which was recently established in the office.
Stephanie will serve as the point person for programs like the annual International Festival, International Education Week, and orientation for degree-seeking international students. In addition to program coordination, Stephanie will also serve as an international student adviser and support international undergraduate admissions. She is looking forward to growing in this new role, and learning how to best support international students on campus.

**Upcoming Events**

**GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

**GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**

**SPRING 2018**

**REQUIRED CORE COLLOQUIA**

**LEADERSHIP IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT**
Ms. Lindsey Woelker & Mr. Wally Vinson
Tuesday, January 30
5:00 – 7:00pm, Foust 206

**BEYOND BORDERS: BECOMING A GLOBAL CITIZEN**
Mr. Patrick Lilja
Tuesday, February 6
5:00 – 7:00pm, Foust 206

**CROSS CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING**
*Students must complete IDI online, prior to workshop.*
Dr. Nell Pynes
Tuesday, February 13
5:00 – 7:00pm, Foust 206

*light refreshment will be provided*  
**RSVP at glp@uncg.edu**