Welcome Students!

It’s been a busy few weeks at UNCG! Students from all over the world descended upon the campus in the early August heat to learn their way around campus, attend orientations and workshops, and become generally acclimated to their new home in the US. IPC was there to organize and facilitate several of these functions to help welcome and orient UNCG’s new bunch of international students.

Like all new Spartans, degree-seeking international students were required to participate in Spartan Orientation, Advising & Registration (SOAR), so that they were prepared for their upcoming semesters. IPC filled in information gaps critical for international students with informative luncheons on visas, potential work hours, and other legalities between sessions. These luncheons also provided an opportunity for students to speak with more senior international peers about adjusting to school and dealing with any potential culture shock. Two students, Beituo Wang and Taha Alfurgani (recipient of the Daniel A. Lynch scholarship), were available to field questions on these concerns. Everyone enjoyed the hot lunch and information provided!

However, the whole week wasn’t dedicated to only informative sessions. IPC helped cool off the new exchange students with a Popsicle Social on Wednesday the 9th of August. The event brought together the 104 newly arrived exchange students from 24 countries for a variety of ice breaker games. These ensured a bit of relaxation amidst the orientation craziness, and helped introduce the students to one another and to the IPC staff. Even though the popsicles melted before they could be fully enjoyed, fun was had by all!

Locally, students were received by the Global Student Welcome Reception. This was held on August 24th at HQ Greensboro, a modern co-working space in downtown Greensboro that houses the Global Opportunities Center. This event is organized twice a year (in January and August) to help usher in the influx of international students who arrive in Greensboro at their surrounding universities. The Global Student Welcome Reception is held in order to enable students from the local colleges and universities with either an international background or an interest in international opportunities to get to know one another, connect with local business owners and community leaders, and learn about off-campus opportunities and downtown Greensboro.

This event is hosted by the Global Opportunities Center, which functions as a resource for business support services for the global market expansion of local organizations. The GO Center also serves as a platform for global experiential learning opportunities and is a connecting hub for international student and business recruitment. The Triad Regional Export Initiative (TREI), a program that links business students with companies on export initiatives, and Opportunity Greensboro’s Fellows Program, a non-profit that links vetted students with local internships, were highlighted in particular. UNCG students and IPC staff were there to participate in and explore what the event had to offer. If interested in TREI, contact Lee Todhunter at ltodhunter@go-center.org, and for Opportunity Greensboro’s Fellows program, contact Beth Manella at 336.387.8358.

On the first day of classes, August 15th, the IPC held the International Welcome Reception in the Virginia Dare room of the Alumni House. Incoming international students and Americans returning from study abroad were warmly greeted by UNCG staff and entertained by Spiro the Spartan, our ever exuberant mascot. The afternoon was capped off with welcome remarks given by the Associate Provost for the International
Programs Center, Dr. Penelope Pynes. After thanking everyone who made the event possible, Dr. Pynes spoke of UNCG’s commitment to international education as part of the university’s identity as a higher education institution. Three years ago, UNCG with IPC and Global Connections, kicked off the “Global Engagement for Global Learning” initiative - a five year program that aims to prepare our graduates to engage successfully in the global environment in which they live and work. Dr. Pynes highlighted the following opportunities in global engagement: ensuring that study abroad is a fundamental element of every undergraduate’s experience and that no student is precluded due to cost, strengthening our volunteer service program initiatives so that we may have a positive impact on the world, and lastly reinforcing our commitment to attracting international students, scholars, and faculty, because diversity is our strength.

Thank you again to all the staff, students, and volunteers that make UNCG stand out within the global community, and welcome (back) to UNCG international and domestic students!

**Faculty Features**

**UNCG and Bengkulu University Collaborate on Science Education**

International academic collaborations are thriving - especially right here at home! UNCG’s Catherine Matthews was the leader of The HERP Project, or Herpetology Education in Rural Places and Spaces. She and her international colleague, Pak Aceng from Bengkulu University in Indonesia, collaborated on the science education project. There were four threads of the HERP Project, Celebrations, Cyberhub, Herpetology Research Experiences, and Studies, which supported educational, conservation and field ecology experiences related to herpetology, which is the study of reptiles and amphibians. The HERP Project’s goals included:

- Igniting a passion for NC’s reptiles and amphibians,
- Developing a sense of place and a connection to the local environment,
- Engaging people in conservation and field ecology experiences, and
- Promoting the public’s participation in scientific research

Recently stateside, the Herp Project ran week-long camps at Chestnut Ridge Retreat Center and at the Greensboro Science Center. Last summer, a camp was run at Georgia Southern for girls to encourage interest in STEM fields. The ‘Toad-ally Cool Math and Science Integration’ had girls working with toads. They explored the local area for their specimens, surmised their own hypothesis on male versus female toad sizes, and conducted their own research. This program played double duty in not just science competence, but in empowering girls at an early age in a field that is male dominated.

Furthermore, the HERP Project also collaborated with the NC Arboretum, one of the 17 UNC campuses. The Herp Project helped spur their ecoEXPLORE program and now they plan on taking their it to all 100 counties in NC! ecoEXPLORE is an incentive-driven science enrichment program that engages kindergarten through eighth-grade students in guided and self-directed citizen science activities, similar to the HERP project, but with a broader range of scientific topics. UNCG is honored to serve as the location for the piloting of the ecoEXPLORE expansion as well.
Not only has the HERP Project encouraged science learning here, but has also collaborated to enhance science education abroad! Last August Dr. Matthews, Ann Somers (Biology, UNCG), and John Groves (Curator Emeritus for Reptiles & Amphibians at the NC Zoo) spent a week at Bengkulu University in Indonesia with their Indonesian colleague, Mr. Pak Aceng. The trip was funded by the National Academy of science. Additionally, Mr. Aceng recently ran into HERP Project Program Officer, Ellen McCallie (photo), while presenting on his US AID work. Ms. McCallie was in Jakarta serving as a science fellow, providing technical assistance to the Indonesian Science Fund. She remarked that “When I heard that PEER was meeting this week, I was excited to meet Pak Aceng. It was great to hear that US AID through the National Academies was able to support the travel...It’s great when collaborations continue.” UNCG still figures prominently in Mr. Aceng’s work, and looks forward to continued science education efforts!

To learn more about the HERP project, please visit: https://theherpproject.uncg.edu/. To learn more about UNCG’s research foci, please visit: http://research.uncg.edu/. And to learn more about UNCG’s international community and local events, please visit https://international.uncg.edu/.

Sources:

http://www.ncarboretum.org/education-programs/youth-family-programs/citizen-science/ecoexplore/
https://theherpproject.uncg.edu/

Want to learn more about faculty funding?

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:
https://international.uncg.edu//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). 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 a Kohler Award: https://international.uncg.edu//faculty.html

IPC / U.S. Department of State initiative brings six international visitors to UNCG

On Friday September 8, 2017, IPC hosted a group of international visitors in a half-day session to explore the theme of social entrepreneurship. Ms. Denise Bellamy, Senior Director of International Programs and Director of Study Abroad and Exchanges, welcomed the group of delegates to the campus and the Bryan School of Business and Economics for the day’s events. The six delegates were sponsored through the International Visitor Leadership Program, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State, and represented the countries of Australia, Brunei, Honduras, Israel, the People’s Republic of China, and Spain. The group was accompanied by Beth Robertson and Carole Head of NC Global Leadership who led the group throughout their visit in North Carolina.

Do something bigger altogether
school of business and economics; Dr. Cathy Hamilton, Director of Office of Leadership and Service Learning and Coleman Foundation Fellow; and Dr. Esra Memili, Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Bryan School of Business and Economics. During the interactive discussion, each panelist presented on their contributions to the award-winning Entrepreneurship Cross-Disciplinary Program at UNCG.

While learning about UNCG’s model of social entrepreneurship was a new experience to the delegates, the field of social entrepreneurship was not new to them at all. Each delegate is actively involved in community work in their respective countries, and many have founded their own organizations. Their areas of community involvement range from promoting art and culture at a MakerSpace in Brunei to empowering youth to excel in leadership and the business world in Israel. The delegates reflected on experiences in their own work in connection with the projects and collaborations discussed by the Bryan School panelists.

After departing UNCG, the group headed over to the Nussbaum Center for Entrepreneurship, and even spent time at the International Folk Festival over the weekend. Their other visits included spending time in Washington, D.C. and Boston, among other cities.

International Visitor Leadership Program:  [https://eca.state.gov/ivlp](https://eca.state.gov/ivlp)
Department of Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality & Tourism  [http://bryan.uncg.edu/meht/](http://bryan.uncg.edu/meht/)
Entrepreneurship at UNCG  [http://bryan.uncg.edu/ecdp/](http://bryan.uncg.edu/ecdp/)
The Poetry Project  [http://josephusiii.com/the-poetry-project](http://josephusiii.com/the-poetry-project)

2017 Study Abroad Expo

IPC held its annual Study Abroad and Exchange Expo on August 23rd, 2017 in the pre-function auditorium in the Elliott University Center. Students stopped by several tables of study abroad options across disciplines - all of which were exciting! Representing IPC and fielding questions about the potential experience were IPC staff members, Tom Martinek and Logan Stanfield, and student volunteers who themselves had studied abroad. Pictures of beautiful, far away places and treats enticed one from table to table.

UNCG’s claim to fame is its extensive semester and year long exchange options in forty-five countries. There are lots of programs for a variety of disciplines available. Outside of shorter summer ventures, the IPC offers semester and academic year-long placements all over the world. I spoke with Katya Davis, a student volunteer, about what she wished other UNCG students knew about the study abroad experience. She exuberantly told me she wished that more people knew how affordable studying abroad could be! While paying tuition and room and board to UNCG, one is able to study at an international school. Only spending money and airfare are required, but even then there are several scholarships.
available. IPC staff members, Tom and Logan, also echoed Katya’s point about the affordability of the programs.

The first table in line was with the Religious Studies department. They are planning a Rel 503 course in the Himalayas of North India for Summer 2018. It is being touted as “a unique learning expedition in the Himalayan region of Ladakh in North India exploring religious identity, sacred spaces, ancient art and architecture, and participating in volunteer work with Buddhist and Muslim communities.” It is being taught and organized by Dr. Rohit Singh and Professor Gregory Grieve. Students will not only be participating in a once in a lifetime trip, but they will also walk away with a critical understanding on how modernity has shaped and is shaping the Buddhist and Muslim cultures of the region. If interested, apply at [http://studyabroad.uncg.edu/?go=RELHimalayas](http://studyabroad.uncg.edu/?go=RELHimalayas).

Or perhaps an experience in a warmer climate to participate in a field investigation with the Geography department is more your speed. This winter, Dec 8-27, 2017, you could spend nineteen days visiting Bengkulu, Jakarta, Singapore, and Bali participating in classes while also getting to snorkel, hike, visit museums, and just generally explore the sights. This trip counts as GEO 560, 570, and either 495 or 695. Seven credit hours plus an SVL marker all while on an amazing adventure? It’s not too good to be true! If interested, contact Dr. Jay at [jaylennartson@gmail.com](mailto:jaylennartson@gmail.com).

One of the more unique excursions that UNCG has to offer was a coordinated effort with the Music Department and the Environmental & Sustainability Studies Program, overseen by Dr. Kailan Rubinoff and Dr. Aaron S. Allen. They call their experience “The Grand Tour”, and it’s a modern replication of an ancient excursion through Italy in 1670 with a focus on sustainable travel and music. Cities on this “Grand Tour” include London, Paris, Milan, Padua, Venice, Bologna, Naples, and Rome. This itinerary has won the Innovative Course Design award from the American Society for 18th Century Studies. This adventure will be held Spring 2018 for about a month, with an on-campus course held prior to departing. If interested, contact either Dr. Rubinoff at krrubino@uncg.edu or Dr. Allen at asallen@uncg.edu.

The business school has not one but TWO study abroad programs that are coming up. For Spring Break 2018 there is a program to Belgium planned. It will be a joint MGT 303 course with students from the Louvain School of Management. Belgian students will host the UNCG students, and then the Belgian students will be hosted by them for a week in Greensboro. The course is open to all students as well- not just business students! Apply for this program [http://studyabroad.uncg.edu/?go=Belgium](http://studyabroad.uncg.edu/?go=Belgium).

Another Business School program is part of MGT 301 and MKT 320 summer enrollment. It will be held in Prague and Vienna! In addition to counting towards credit for two classes, there will be daily visits with business leaders and creative agencies, a tour of Kozel Brewery, guided tour of both cities, and a visit to the Toyota Peugot Citroen Automobile plant. This program will be led by two professors with 62 years of business experience between them- Sara Macsween and John Ceneviva. The program will run from June 3rd through the 16th. If interested, please apply online at [http://studyabroad.uncg.edu/?go=BryanPrague](http://studyabroad.uncg.edu/?go=BryanPrague).

As my time at the expo wound down, I asked about the overall success of the day. Logan Stanfield responded with, “There has been good energy today!” As a current and former UNCG student, I can attest to the “good energy” that continues to permeate through the entire study abroad process and experience. If you are interested in studying abroad while at UNCG, do not hesitate to visit our website at [https://international.uncg.edu/](https://international.uncg.edu/) or contact us at [ipc@uncg.edu](mailto:ipc@uncg.edu).
I am Ebony Williams and a senior at UNCG in the Peace and Conflict Studies program and work at the International Programs Center. International relations and education have always been topics of interest for me, so for my internship I am supervising two middle college students throughout their internships to create a brochure and Powerpoint to highlight health and safety protocols/tips at home and around the world. This will be a useful resource for incoming international students and outgoing study abroad students. This project is very important because it will show how health and safety differ from country to country, depending on where you travel. When either studying abroad or thinking of international students that study here, health and safety is one of the most important things to consider, and can be easily overlooked during the excitement in preparing to study abroad. Having a succinct international health and safety report at your fingertips, whether that be on a brochure or a powerpoint, will ease the transition to the new country and help keep students abreast of their health concerns.

In addition to my internship, I am also completing the Global Leadership Program. This amazing opportunity enhances students’ global knowledge and allows them to take advantage of the unique, international opportunities that UNCG has to offer, while enhancing my intercultural awareness and global leadership skills. In the program, one has many opportunities to attend lectures and events that offer an insight into the many professions that deal with international relations, media, or international conflict. Due to the collaborative nature of the program, leadership and communication skills are learned that will aid in future endeavors when out in the “real world”. After completing the necessary requirements of the program, one receives a “certificate of completion” that is reflected on your degree upon graduation. This program is not only valuable for gaining international awareness and competence, but it is one that has taught me concrete skills that will help with my future ventures and career, whether they be internationally or domestically based.

UNCG’s Global Engagement Office and the Lloyd International Honors College are working together to plan this year’s Global Engagement Conference. The Think Global. Act Local. Conference, taking place on November 3rd and 4th, is open to all UNCG students and will tie together many of the themes of this year’s Keker First Year Common Read book, Behind the Beautiful Forevers. Specifically it will examine how food insecurity, poverty, and sustainability are interrelated. Conference participants will learn about how these themes affect people locally from ten community organizations. Following a period of reflection lead by UNCG’s Office of Leadership and Service Learning student reflection leaders, conference participants will be guided to create a personal action plan.

On Friday evening participants will take a shuttle to Downtown Greensboro where they will be treated to an Indian meal from the Curryblossom Café. The restaurant’s owner and chef, Vimala Rajendran, will talk about her personal experiences growing up in India and the US along with her business philosophy of running a triple bottom line business- people, planet, and lastly, profit. Following table discussions with UNCG faculty, students will be treated to a performance by Josephus III and his Poetry Café.

The two-day conference is 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 are provided for free, and participants will receive a completion certificate.

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.

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.
November 4th from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Location: (Friday) Downtown Greensboro, (Saturday) UNCG Campus
Cost: Free! All meals and transportation will be provided.

IMPORTANT - There are a limited number of spaces available for this conference. Register now to reserve your spot! Register Here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nQSy6Z5S0NwS9EAxcMt5AZ1O_ofBxSAVD38u-AWNjdE/edit

Faculty interested in participating in the conference please contact us at globalqep@uncg.edu

The Mid Autumn Festival is a celebration held every year in China on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month. This festival celebrates the large full moon of harvest. During this time, people celebrate by eating mooncakes, coming together with family, and recognizing for all that they are thankful. Besides China, Vietnam and Taiwan have similar celebrations around the full moon of harvest season. UNCG also honors this festival during the third weekend of September. At UNCG’s celebration, participants are invited to learn about the culture of different Asian countries.

This year, New Mind Education hosted a table with traditional Chinese clothing and paper cutting. Participants learned how to do the famous handiwork of China done with simple paper and scissors. Paper cutting is an art form nearly as old as China itself, but it can be performed by almost anyone. The designs can be intricate or simple depending on the skill of the cutter. New Mind Education interns Xin Zhao, Min Yang, and Jiangxue Chen carefully selected various designs that allowed the youngest to the most artistic participants to try their hand at paper cutting. Participants were also invited to try on the traditional Chinese clothing and pose for a picture. Many people enjoyed trying on the colorful Chinese silk and posting pictures to their own social media accounts.

New Mind and UNCG Staff/Students in traditional garb

Welcome back, Spartans! I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Writer and Editor of the International Programs Center newsletter, eNewsworthy. As a returning Spartan, I am excited to engage with UNCG’s international community and help facilitate the expanding of horizons for all of our students. I have a degree from UNCG in English Literature and French, and a Master’s degree from Sheffield University in Sheffield, England in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). IPC was an instrumental component of my undergraduate career, as I was able to study abroad in 2008 in Angers, France, and I look forward to advocating and informing UNCG at large of the fabulous work that is facilitated by the IPC and its Staff on behalf of the whole university.