Chancellor Brady welcomes new international students for Spring 2014

On January 14, 2014, Chancellor Linda Brady held her semi-annual International Student Welcome Reception for new and returning international students as well as UNCG students who have returned from their study abroad programs in recent months.

The Chancellor opened her speech by talking about her involvement with international affairs, both in her personal and professional life, over the past forty years. She also talked about UNCG’s commitment to international education as being an essential part of the university’s identity, highlighting three ways UNCG is working to achieve its mission of “integrating intercultural and international experiences and perspectives into learning, discovery, and service.” First, the university will strive to make sure no student is denied the opportunity to study abroad due to financial limitations. Second, UNCG will continue to strengthen volunteer service programs for UNCG faculty, students, and staff. Lastly, the university will reinforce its commitment to attracting talented international students and scholars to work and study here at UNCG.

This semester, approximately 103 new international students have enrolled at UNCG. Fifty-five are exchange students and forty-eight are degree-seeking students. In addition there are thirty-eight new INTERLINK students. The reception was a wonderful opportunity to let these students know how much they are appreciated and welcomed at UNCG.

As with past receptions, several students were individually recognized as representatives of the diverse international student population we have here at UNCG. This year, special recognition was given to Lucas Sandino (Nicaragua), Bochen Li (China), Mohammad Daneshvar Kakhki (Iran), and Pamela Mattar (Chile).

Lucas Sandino is from the Universidad Americana in Nicaragua. He is our first international exchange student from Nicaragua. Lucas is in his fourth year of study in Global Business and will be studying at UNCG for the Spring and Fall 2014 semesters.

A freshman from Beijing, China, Bochen Li is one of our new degree-seeking undergraduates. He will be majoring in Consumer, Apparel, and Retail Studies with a concentration in Global Apparel and Related Industries. He excels in mathematics and also enjoys playing basketball in his spare time.

Mohammad Daneshvar Kakhki is a degree-seeking PhD student from Iran pursuing a degree in Information Systems and Operations management.

Finally, Pamela Mattar represented the new INTERLINK students. Originally from Chile, she holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Nutrition and is pursuing a PhD in Nutrition at the Universidad de Chile. Currently, she is taking a hiatus from her doctoral studies to study with INTERLINK to improve her English.

Overall, the reception was very well attended by all, including Provost David Perrin, faculty members, IPC staff, friends, and students. We would like to thank everyone for coming, and we wish all of the international students a warm welcome and best wishes for the upcoming semester. UNCG and IPC are proud to be a part of each student’s journey!

**Mark your calendars!** The 32nd Annual UNCG International Festival will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 12:00 Noon to 5:00PM on College Avenue.
In preparation for the new Global Engagement Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to be implemented next academic year, the Faculty Teaching and Learning Commons (FTLC) and the Global Engagement Community offered a workshop on January 22, 2014, for UNCG faculty interested in incorporating intercultural competency into their curriculum and their daily professional and personal lives. The workshop, entitled “Intercultural Sensitivity: Looking Through the Eyes of Others,” was designed to help faculty understand the importance of intercultural sensitivity as an aid to effective communication. Dr. Penelope Pynes (Associate Provost for International Programs) and Denise Bellamy (Director of Study Abroad and Exchange) led the workshop.

Before attending, faculty were invited to complete the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), an assessment of intercultural competence, so that they could discuss how the IDI may be applied in their work. Faculty also learned more about Milton Bennett’s Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity (DMIS), a model of the development of an individual’s worldview structure that provides a basis for helping him or her work more effectively with people from other cultural backgrounds. According to Bennett, “The underlying assumption of the model is that as one’s experience of cultural difference becomes more sophisticated, one’s competence in intercultural relations potentially increases.”

Michelle Solér, Senior Director of the FTLC, and Tommy Lambeth, an Associate Professor of Interior Architecture and a FTLC Fellow for Global Engagement, organized the event. Among Mr. Lambeth’s activities as faculty fellow have been conducting sessions to elicit faculty feedback and share ideas that have and continue to inform the QEP initiative. “Considering we will be using several measures like the IDI for the upcoming QEP initiative, it is important for faculty to understand the basis of these measures,” he says. “This understanding will hopefully help faculty design intercultural experiences for their students that address global engagement in the QEP context.”

The FTLC and the Global Engagement Community hope to follow up January’s workshop with another on February 26, 2014, which will address techniques for creating intercultural experiences in the classroom and beyond. “Our hope is to engender discussions of precedents and currently used techniques and to look for ways to transfer these to new contexts and classrooms,” Mr. Lambeth says.

Interested in learning more about upcoming workshops? Please contact the FTLC at ftlc@uncg.edu or visit the FTLC website at commons.uncg.edu for more information.

Representative from Stellenbosch University, South Africa, visits UNCG

Werner de Wit, the Coordinator for International Student Life and Success at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, visited UNCG on January 8, 2014. Stellenbosch University is an exchange partner with UNCG. While here, Mr. de Wit met with the international programs staff and attended the welcome session for the international exchange student orientation.
At Stellenbosch, Mr. de Wit is responsible for all of the various support services and activities for international students, which includes everything from orientation and housing to arranging various trips and other events. UNCG is fortunate to have three students studying at Stellenbosch University during the Spring 2014 semester.

**Special Programs**

**UNCG students get excited about study abroad at the Spring 2014 Study Abroad Expo**

On January 23, 2014, many UNCG students paid a visit to the Elliott University Center’s Cone Ballroom to check out the Study Abroad Expo, a day-long event dedicated to educating interested students about the Study Abroad and Exchange (SAE) Program at UNCG. The event was very well-attended and showcased the wide range of available study abroad programs and UNCG exchange partner schools around the world. Attendees were able to talk to IPC Staff, former study abroad students, and international students studying at UNCG about study abroad opportunities, financial options, the application process, and how studying abroad can be a life-changing experience. The IPC holds the Study Abroad Expo at the beginning of each semester.

Jessica Straehle, a senior studying Business Administration and Environmental Studies, was one of the students available to share her study abroad experience. She studied at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, during the Fall 2012 semester and loved every minute of it. “I enjoyed being able to immerse myself in another culture and experience life in a different country,” she says. “It also allowed me to look back at life in the States from an entirely different perspective, which was incredibly beneficial.”

Since returning to the US, she has worked to encourage others to pursue positive experiences abroad. “I think every student should study abroad because it allows you to challenge yourself in a way that is unique from any other experience you’ll have at your home university,” she says. “You’ll never have another opportunity to look at a map and be able to pick somewhere—anywhere—and live there so easily and affordably. And it will be the best experience of your life.” Jessica is also the president of Stateside, a student organization for study abroad alumni.

IPC would like to thank everyone who helped make this semester’s Study Abroad Expo a success!

Missed this semester’s Study Abroad Expo? Want to learn more about study abroad or help out with next semester’s expo? Please visit the SAE homepage or contact Denise Bellamy (Director of Study Abroad and Exchange) at dbellam@uncg.edu for more information.

To learn more about Stateside, please contact Tom Martinek, Jr. at tjmarti2@uncg.edu.
This semester, UNCG and IPC welcomed 102 new and returning international exchange students to our campus. One of them is Miriam Wilder, a senior Business and Economics major from the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany. Miriam has been on exchange at UNCG since August 2013, and so far, she has had a very positive experience. “I feel there is strong community here, both on and off campus,” she says. “I am very involved in the community back home, so that was very important when I was choosing where I wanted to study abroad.” UNCG’s diverse campus and wide range of departments and programs were also major factors in her decision to study at our university, as it offered a different experience from that of her home university. “The biggest differences between UNCG and Hohenheim are the size of the campus and the number of departments,” she says. “We have excellent departments but the curriculum at Hohenheim is more focused on the three major departments—Agricultural Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Business, Economics, and Social Sciences.”

Since arriving last fall, Miriam has made sure to make the most of her own experience here. One of the highlights so far has been participating in the X-Culture Symposium, which was held last October in Atlanta, GA, and hosted by the Home Depot. X-Culture, a project designed by Dr. Vas Taras (Assistant Professor, Department of Management), pulls together business students from universities worldwide to work on theoretical case studies for multinational corporations. As part of the symposium, Miriam participated in the Home Depot Challenge, a business competition in which participating students were divided into teams and asked to complete a business proposal. The teams collaborated online for several weeks before presenting their proposals in person at the conference. The competition provided Miriam with hands-on, practical experience, and the chance to meet students from all around the world.

The Export Odyssey, an International Marketing course taught by Dr. Nicholas Williamson (Associate Professor, Department of Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality, and Tourism), also provided Miriam with practical experience. As part of the class, Miriam and her team had to write an export strategy for a company in North Carolina to help them sell their products to companies overseas. “This was the best research I’ve done in my studies so far,” she said. “It was great to work on an international scale and get practical, real-world experience.” The class also had an impact on her post-graduation plans. “It brought me closer to the idea of working between Germany and the US,” she says.

If you’re a UNCG student and are interested in studying abroad in Germany, Miriam says the University of Hohenheim is a great option. “We have a really beautiful campus and a great location,” she says. “The Business school is renowned for its outstanding program, and our Natural Sciences and Agricultural departments are strong as well. Any degree from Hohenheim will look good on the job market.” The university is also very supportive of its international exchange students. As part of its exchange program, the university has a “Buddy Program” (similar to our PAL program) which pairs each international exchange student with a “buddy” who acts as their go-to resource during their stay. While still at Hohenheim, Miriam was a buddy for three semesters. She was paired with two students from Australia and one from Russia and helped them in a variety of ways, including picking them up from the airport, helping them move in to...
their apartments, showing them around campus, and introducing them to friends.

In addition to university life, Miriam says the surrounding city of Stuttgart is also a good place to live and work. The city is known for its high-tech industry, and is home to many prominent automobile companies, including Porsche, Daimler and Mercedes-Benz. “The city also has great public transportation,” she says. “And the food is really good. That’s one of the things I miss most.” Among her favorite foods are traditional German bread and pastries and Swabian dishes, such as Maultaschen, or pasta pillows filled with meat, spinach, onion, and bread.

Miriam would like to encourage everyone to go abroad on exchange. “In business, we’re always being told to think outside of the box. Well, that’s what exchange is like,” she says. “I think everyone should go on exchange—it’s a great way to get out of your box and do something different. It’s an opportunity that may never come up again, and you have to ask yourself, ‘If not now, when?’”

Still want to know more about study abroad and exchange? Visit the SAE website at http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/sae/study_abroad_exchanges.html.

**International Students**

**New and returning international students participate in orientation week**

During the week of January 7-12, 2014, UNCG and IPC welcomed 102 international exchange students to our campus, including 55 new students and 47 returning for their second semester. After arriving at UNCG, the students participated in a week’s worth of orientation activities, including information sessions, tours of campus facilities, outings to downtown Greensboro, and social events. IPC staff presented several information sessions on a variety of topics, including academic advising and registration, payment options, maintaining a student visa, co-curricular opportunities and activities, and life in Greensboro and the US in general. Presentations were also given by staff, faculty, and representatives from University Police, Residence Life, Division of Student Affairs, the Spartan Card Center, the Student Success Center, Student Health Services, the Bryan School of Business and Economics, and Wells Fargo.

In addition to learning the nuts and bolts of campus life, students also participated in several activities to help them get to know their cohort and their UNCG PALs. All new international exchange students, UNCG student volunteers, and some PALs participated in a “speed meeting” exercise that allowed

UNCG and IPC welcomed a new cohort of international exchange students during the week before classes

Card Center, the Student Success Center, Student Health Services, the Bryan School of Business and Economics, and Wells Fargo.

Lucy Collins (University of Southern Queensland, Australia; left) and Adeline Huffman (Brock University, Canada) get to know each other during a speed meeting exercise
students to converse with several of their peers for 90-second intervals over the course of 30 minutes. Afterwards, the students enjoyed hot chocolate and continued to mingle and get to know the members of their cohort.

Starting this semester, International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) expanded its orientation program to a full day. New degree-seeking students were able to choose to attend one of several of these day-long sessions during orientation week. The expansion included guest speakers who covered topics such as academic support (Undergraduate Education), academic integrity in the writing process (Jackson Library), tuition issues (Cashiers and Student Accounts Office), student health insurance and claims (Student Health Services), counseling (Counseling Center), campus safety (University Police), and faculty and the classroom (faculty from the Bryan School of Business and Economics). This semester, ISSS also introduced the Orientation Ambassador Program, which matches continuing international students up with new international students for break-out sessions as well as ongoing support throughout the semester.

We would like to thank everyone who made this semester’s orientation week a success!

INTERLINK

Fall 2, 2013 End-of-Term Ceremony

INTERLINK’s Fall 2, 2013 end-of-term ceremony took place on December 13, 2013. The ceremony began with an opening speech by one of the graduating students, Rawan Sendi (Saudi Arabia), and was followed by a warm welcome from INTERLINK’s director, Dr. Brad Teague. During the ceremony, several awards were presented, including the Perfect Attendance Awards, “Hardest-Working Student” Awards, Module Participation Awards, and the Outstanding Student Award, which was awarded to graduate Yanan Liu (China). Departing and graduating students also received special recognition. The ceremony was closed by another graduate, Feras Abdat (Saudi Arabia). We would like to congratulate the following graduates:

- Feras Abdat (Saudi Arabia)
- Abdulaziz Albawardi (Saudi Arabia)
- Ibrahim Alsheheil (Saudi Arabia)
- Ahmed Bin Afif (Saudi Arabia)
- Suhayb Khuqayr (Saudi Arabia)
- Rajani Laxetti (India) - matriculated at UNCG (graduate student)
- Longyu Li (China) - matriculated at UNCG (undergraduate student)
- Yibo Li (China) - matriculated at UNCG (undergraduate student)
- Wenchao Liang (China) - matriculated at UNCG (undergraduate student)
- Yanan Liu (China)
- Rawan Sendi (Saudi Arabia)
- Onelda Shaqiri (Albania) - matriculated at UNCG (graduate student)
- Hilal Thaibah (Saudi Arabia)
- Ruojun Zhao (China) - matriculated at UNCG (undergraduate student)

Nine of the fourteen graduates plan to continue their studies at UNCG in the Spring 2014 semester.

INTERLINK students Rawan Sendi (Saudi Arabia, left) and Hibah Almusallam (Saudi Arabia, right) with INTERLINK instructor Sarah Love at the Fall 2, 2013 end-of-term ceremony

Spring 1, 2014 Session

As we bid some students farewell, we welcome others. The Spring 1, 2014 session began on January 6, 2014, with a two-day orientation. INTERLINK welcomed 38 new students from 10 countries, including Chile, China, Colombia, Iraq, Oman, Panama, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Venezuela, and Vietnam.
Twenty-four of these students entered with conditional admission to UNCG. The program currently serves 138 international students total—a record number!

**INTERLINK Programs and Volunteer Opportunities**

INTERLINK continues to sponsor two programs on campus. The **Conversation-Partners Program** connects INTERLINK students with UNCG faculty, staff, and students for informal conversation and cross-cultural learning. In the **Learning Exchange and Assistance Program (LEAP)**, UNCG community members are paired with INTERLINK students in order to provide them with extra academic and linguistic support. Please contact Huda Al-Zurfi at hkabdnoo@uncg.edu for more information.

**New Mind**

**News and Announcements**

Sharing food can be a great way to cross cultural boundaries, and since November, New Mind Education has hosted two events that have promoted community and cultural exchange through sharing traditional Western and Eastern cuisine. In late November, the staff of New Mind Education and Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, a UNCG student group, hosted a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. For the New Mind students, the meal was a wholly new experience; this was not only their first Thanksgiving dinner but also their first celebration of a major American holiday. As they enjoyed this American tradition, the students from New Mind and Chi Alpha formed new friendships and shared a little bit about their cultures with one another.

To celebrate the beginning of the semester, the arrival of new students, and to combat the cold, New Mind also hosted a traditional Chinese hot pot soup party for its students and new friends in January. Hot pot is one of the most popular winter dishes in China. Vegetables, meat, and noodles are cooked “to order” in a pot of broth, and, once everything is cooked, diners are able to choose which items they would like to eat from the pot. Since hot pot is a very communal style of dining, it was a great way for new and returning students to get to know one another. At the end of this month, New Mind is planning another event with Chi Alpha to celebrate the Chinese New Year and usher in the year of the Horse.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Susanne Martin, who is our new Lead Advisor for New Mind Education at UNCG. Susanne was drawn to New Mind because she is passionate about working with international students and helping students develop intercultural skills and understanding. Susanne brings a wealth of experience to the position, as she has worked as an ESL teacher both at the college level and with Guilford and Forsyth County school systems. She also taught ESL as a librarian. In her spare time, she operates a small printing press out of her home, making paper, prints, and limited edition letterpress books. Please take a moment to welcome Susanne to the team and introduce yourself to her when you see her!
UNCG International Programs in the First Annual Dimensions Forum

In December, UNCG took part in an exciting new opportunity for Middle Eastern students that are currently on scholarship in the United States. The Abaad Foundation, a newly formed organization dedicated to meeting the educational, cultural, and social needs of Saudi students in the United States, held their first annual conference from December 18-20, 2013, in Chicago, Illinois. With over 1,000 students in attendance, the conference included a variety of speakers, performances, workshops, and a university admissions recruitment fair.

Angie Kapely, our Study Abroad Coordinator and Faculty Advisor for the UNCG Saudi Student Club, served as the University Coordinator at the conference, working in collaboration with EducationUSA in the Riyadh-based US Embassy to coordinate the university recruitment fair. Over 85 universities from 32 states attended the fair to meet with students, share information about their schools, and even offer admission to undergraduate and graduate students. Approximately 400 students attended the fair, and 5 of those students were given admission to a university on site. Jennifer Kelley (IPC Financial Coordinator) and Grant Joliff (Admissions Specialist for the Graduate School) represented UNCG at the fair, meeting with over 75 students, several of whom have already begun the application process.

Angie also gave a presentation, entitled “Intercultural Communication Tools,” to over 120 representatives from US universities during the conference. The presentation was designed to help attendees better understand and serve students from the Middle East. Her presentation has also been selected by NAFSA to be presented as a Region VII highlight at the upcoming NAFSA 2014 Annual Conference in San Diego, CA, this May.

Farewell, Anne Marie

We bid a fond farewell to Anne Marie Roberts, who has been our Graduate Assistant for Study Abroad and Exchange (SAE) since Fall 2011. She graduated in December 2013, earning a dual Master’s of Science and Specialist of Education degree in Couples and Family Therapy from the Counseling and Educational Development department. In March, she hopes to receive her licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor Associate. As far as her future plans go, she hopes to work with children and families back in her hometown of Asheville, NC. “I loved working at IPC! Instead of coming to work every day, it felt more like coming home,” she says. “I love everyone at IPC dearly, and I am so grateful for the personal and professional growth I experienced there. I can’t thank everyone enough and am incredibly blessed to have been part of the IPC family.” Congratulations, Anne Marie! We will miss you!

Welcome, Sade!

Sade Mcclain is our new SAE Graduate Assistant. Originally from Sanford, NC, Sade is a first-year graduate student in the Speech Pathology program here at UNCG. In addition to studying abroad in Peru, she has also traveled to Costa Rica for volunteer work. “I chose to work at IPC because I cherish the way visiting other countries and exploring various cultures has impacted my life, and I’d like to help others in their own journeys,” she says.
Farewell Shiuh-min!
We are also saying goodbye to Shiuh-min Chiang, who has been our GA for International Student and Scholar Services since May 2013. Originally from Taiwan, Shiuh-min first came to UNCG as an INTERLINK student and is now a second-year graduate student majoring in Accounting. “I have been happy to work at IPC this past year,” he says. “Their work means a lot to each international student at UNCG.” We will miss you, Shiuh-min!

Welcome to our New Volunteers!
A UNCG senior majoring in Media Studies and Asian Studies, Jordan Griffin will be one of our new volunteers this semester. Jordan is originally from London, Kentucky. During the summer of 2013, he spent three months in Yangzhou, China, and plans to return to China to study abroad in Beijing or Shanghai in Fall 2014. In addition to volunteering at IPC, he is also an intern for New Mind Education.

Hitam “Sam” Alsharif will also be volunteering with us this semester. An international student from Saudi Arabia, Sam is a sophomore majoring in Biology and minoring in Technical Theater, Chemistry, and American Sign Language. He has traveled to many places in the US, including New York, Florida, and Washington, DC, and he hopes to travel to Korea later this year. “I chose to volunteer at IPC because I will be able to improve my communication skills and interact with people from all over the world,” he says. “That diversity is the best part of the experience.” In addition to volunteering at IPC, Sam is also a volunteer Arabic instructor at the Islamic Center of Greensboro and a UNCG representative for the Saudis in USA organization.

An international degree-seeking freshman from Saudi Arabia, Nada Alnajjar is also one of our new volunteers. She is studying English through INTERLINK as well as pursuing a degree is Dietetics. In addition to studying in the US, she has also traveled to Turkey, Malaysia, Egypt, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Jordan, and the United Kingdom. She loves to travel and hopes to visit many more countries in the future. “Volunteering at IPC is a great opportunity for me,” she says. “I am really happy to join the team and be a part of this wonderful community.”

Bon Voyage!
Alyssa Blair and Danielle Fiore, two of our Front Desk staff, will be studying abroad this semester. Alyssa will be studying at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea, and Danielle will be studying at the University of Mannheim in Mannheim, Germany. We wish them both safe travels and best of luck in their studies, and we look forward to seeing them again here at IPC when they return.

University News
“Crossing Borders: For undergraduate researchers, the world is their laboratory” UNCG Now
“Thinking Outside the Borders” UNCG Research Magazine (p. 26)
“Dr. Emily Levine” Campus Weekly
“Guest Lecture: Emily Levine: Art, Money, and Ideas in Weimar Germany” Weatherspoon Art Museum
“Read Dr. Tom Matyok’s New Book” Conflict and Peace Studies News
“UNCG Statement Regarding Proposed ASA Boycott” UNCG Now
“Global Engagement QEP open forums” Campus Weekly
“Holly Downs and Students Work with Physicians for Peace” UNCG Now
“Holly Downs and students work with Physicians for Peace in Dominican Republic” Campus Weekly
“Faculty Spotlight: Holly Downs” School of Education
“International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education” (Upcoming Event) Conflict and Peace Studies News
“See/hear: Nov. 13, 2013” (UNCG Guarantee Scholars hope to go to Querétaro, Mexico) Campus Weekly
“Wine to Water Tackles Global Issue, One Village at a Time” UNCG Now
News from our Partners
"Edition of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore International News" Cattolica International News (Italy)
University of Tartu Blog University of Tartu News, Views, Ways (Estonia)
The Macquarie Globe "Macquarie University's online news for the international community" (Australia)

Upcoming Events

February

February 12  GLP Core Colloquium I: “Cross-Cultural Understanding” (McIver 255, 5:00-7:00pm; open to GLP members and other interested
February 13  ISSS Student Academic Achievement Awards Spring 2014 Reception (EUC Alexander, 4:30-5:45; for recognized international
February 14  UNCG Study Abroad Application Deadline
February 16-20  AIEA Conference 2014 (Washington, DC; for
February 19  GLP Core Colloquium II: “Leadership Within a Global Context” (McIver 255, 5:00-7:00pm; open to GLP members and other
February 19  SAE Faculty-Led Study Abroad Risk Management Spring 2014 (EUC Azalea, 2:00-
February 19-28  Study Abroad Final Interviews (Foust 208
February 24  GLP Core Colloquium III: “Becoming a Global Citizen” (Foust 206, 2:00-4:00pm; open to GLP members and other interested stu-
February 28  Incoming Exchange Application Deadline for

March

March 6  INTERLINK Spring Term I ends
March 7  Travel Grant Application Deadline for Summer 2014 Programs
March 6-7  NCAIE Conference 2014 (Duke University, All Day; for international education leaders in NC)