This semester has been a busy one in terms of all things international. As always, at the beginning of the semester the Chancellor welcomed an excited group of international students to campus and welcomed home those who had returned from a semester abroad. As you will see in this issue we have been conducting stimulating activities to engage our students, faculty and staff in international initiatives.

New to the eNewsworthy this month is a section entitled “UNCG and Beyond” in which we link to UNCG international news from various sources and news items from our international partners. If you have ideas for inclusion let us know. Please share your stories with us so that we can highlight your work. Thanks to everyone for contributing to our ongoing internationalization efforts and best of luck throughout the year.

On January 15, 2013, 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 120 new international students have enrolled at UNCG. Fifty-six are exchange students, thirty-four are degree-seeking students, and forty-one are 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. This year, special recognition was given to Coline Braud (France), Simone Cappati (Italy), Meicin Jin (China), Majed Al Shaqaqeeq (Saudi Arabia), and Kabil Zreouil (Morocco). In addition to meeting Chancellor Brady, they were each presented with a surprise gift.

Coline Braud is one of the four exchange students from the School of Business and Management (ESDES) at the Université Catholique de Lyon in Lyon, France. They are the first students from ESDES to attend UNCG. All four students are business majors and will continue their studies at the Bryan School of Business and Economics while attending UNCG.

Simone Cappati is a degree-seeking undergraduate student from Milan, Italy, and will be pursuing a degree in International and Global Affairs while at UNCG. Meicin Jin is a degree-seeking graduate student from China. She started at UNCG as an INTERLINK student and will now...
be entering the Master’s program in dance with a concentration in choreography.

Majed Al Shaqaqeeq and Kabil Zreouil represented the new INTERLINK students. Majed earned a Medical Doctorate degree from Odessa State Medical University in Ukraine. He transferred to INTERLINK from the Intensive English Language Center at the University of Nevada in Reno. After graduating from INTERLINK, he plans to apply to the Master of Public Health program at UNCG. Kabil completed high school in Casablanca, Morocco, and qualified for a partial merit scholarship at INTERLINK based on his good academic standing and on his status as coming from an underrepresented country in the program. He plans to apply to UNCG’s undergraduate business program after graduating from INTERLINK.

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!

By Dr. Mark Engebretson, Associate Professor of Composition and Electronic Music, School of Music, Theatre and Dance

Last academic year (2011-2012), I received a Kohler grant to travel to Brazil for the premiere of my original composition, Concerto for Soprano Saxophone and Orchestra. The performance was given by the Orquestra Sinfônica da Universidade de São Paulo in Brazil, under the direction of Ligia Amadio, with the solo part performed by saxophonist Susan Fancher. Although the orchestra is attached to the university, it is made up of professional musicians who are hired to present first-rate concerts on behalf of the university community. The performance was given in Sala São Paulo, a beautiful, modern hall in a converted train station terminal. The room holds 1500 people and was filled near to capacity.

I was very impressed by the quality of the orchestra and their dedication to rehearsals. I attended five rehearsals, whereas in the US most professional orchestras will do only two rehearsals before playing a concert. I was very happy with the communication I had with the conductor and the musicians. Many musicians went out of their way to thank me for the piece, and I hope to have made some
good contacts for future projects. In particular, Maestrina Amadio introduced me to a Brazilian agent who hopes to develop more performances with me.

All in all, it was a fantastic experience, potentially of a "career-changing" nature for me, and I am very grateful for the International Travel Fund’s (ITF) generous support.

If you’d like to watch the dress rehearsal for the concert, please visit the following links:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7cn6Z7b1aQ
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_nSYDvVsnE
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uE37gobBJZE

Faculty funding for international activities

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). Faculty are encouraged to submit proposals by the deadline that falls approximately six weeks before the proposed event or travel. To facilitate faculty submissions the Committee now has four deadlines per year for all six areas. The final deadline for this semester is March 22. Details about the procedure for applying and the forms needed can be found the IPC website at http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/fundingopportunities.html. To see others who received a Kohler in the 2012-13 fiscal year, click here. We look forward to receiving and reviewing this year’s proposals.

The International Travel Fund (ITF), created by the Provost's Office, supports approximately 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. Owing to the popularity of this fund, faculty are highly encouraged to apply as soon as they receive notification that their presentations have been accepted. Faculty may apply once per year every two out of three years. To see who received funding for international conferences for the 2011-12 fiscal year, click here and for those who have been awarded this year to date, here. Details about applying can be found at the following website: http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/travelfunds.html.

Visitors & Scholars

International Scholars Spring 2013 Reception for Scholars, Sponsors, and PhD Students

Since the end of Fall Semester 2012, IPC and UNCG have been pleased to welcome five new scholars to our campus:

- Jun Kim and Jungyun Jang (South Korea) – Department of Kinesiology, Dr. Diane Gill
- Kirill Fayn (Australia) – Department of Psychology, Dr. Paul Silvia
- Kuan-Ting Lee (Taiwan) – Department of Kinesiology, Dr. Joseph Starnes
- Joon Jong Son (South Korea) – Department of Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations, Dr. Ulrich Reitzug

IPC held a Welcome Reception for our visiting scholars on January 31, 2013, to introduce our newly arrived scholars to UNCG's faculty, international PhD students, and other scholars on our campus.

We also are expecting three more scholars to arrive later this spring:

- Kristin Bowey (Canada) – Department of Nanoscience, Dr. Marinella Sandros
- Sharifah Latifah Syed Abdul Kadir (Malaysia) – Department of Information Systems and Supply Chain Management, Dr. Prashant Palvia
- Merlo Vega (Spain) – Department of Library and Information Studies, Dr. Clara Chu

UNCG typically hosts approximately 50 scholars per year. To learn more about inviting scholars, contact Mike Elliott (Director of International Student and Scholar Services) at mjellio2@uncg.edu.
On January 24, 2013, 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 extremely well attended and showcased the wide range of available study abroad programs and UNCG exchange partner schools around the world. Attendees were able 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.

Kelly Donovan, a UNCG senior double-majoring in Asian Studies and Spanish, was one of the students available to share her study abroad experience. She had just returned from Beijing, China, where she studied abroad during Fall Semester 2012. She stressed the importance of cultural exchange and how it contributes to a better global understanding. “I realized how much I’d unconsciously come to accept certain stereotypes, and my time abroad helped to dispel them,” she said. As she immersed herself in life in China, she realized that she was not only garnering a better understanding of Chinese culture but also becoming more aware of her own. “In general, I feel like I have a lot more cultural awareness,” she said, “and I think that’s really important.” Kelly hopes to continue encouraging others to study abroad.

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

An Interview with Daisy Sanders, International Exchange Student from Edith Cowan University (ECU), Australia, Fall 2012

This interview was conducted by Sara Normand, Study Abroad and Exchange Officer, Edith Cowan University. Daisy Sanders, a student in the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) at ECU, was an international exchange student at UNCG during the 2012 Fall Semester.

Why did you decide to go on an exchange program?

I have travelled a lot, but I wanted the challenge of living in a foreign country for a longer period of time.

Why did you choose to study in the US?

To be honest, I didn’t want a language barrier because I knew the experience might be challenging enough without that! I also wanted to learn specifically from the teachers in the dance program at UNCG because Alice Holland, who now teaches me, learned from them when she came on exchange to UNCG. It was a very specific choice based on people I had met and who had inspired me.

Missed this semester’s Study Abroad Expo? Want to learn more about study abroad? SAE will be holding study abroad info sessions in Foust 200H on the following dates: February 20, March 6, April 3, and April 24. We’d love to see you there! You may also visit the SAE homepage or contact Denise Bellamy at dbbellam@uncg.edu.
What is the biggest difference between UNCG and Edith Cowan University?

At UNCG, the focus is more on academia and scholarly pursuits. The amount of written work and reading is very high, which I think demands a high standard of commitment from the students. There is also an incredibly extensive dance and performing arts library at UNCG, which is exciting because at the WAAPA the focus is more on a high physical standard. I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to benefit from both institutions and the different things they offer.

What did you think about UNCG’s units (courses)?

There is quite an extensive range of units at UNCG, and I've found the professors in all of my classes to be very energetic educators. They've been really helpful in making sure I have all the classes I need to meet the requirements of my degree back home.

Have you played any sports or joined any clubs at UNCG?

I participate in outdoor recreation, swim club, and a few other social clubs. There are so many clubs here—it is absolutely incredible! There is always something happening.

What are UNCG’s facilities like?

Fantastic. You have everything you need right at your fingertips: sporting grounds, a pool, a gym, a twenty-four-hour library, food outlets, and a cafeteria.

Do you live on campus?

Yes. The buildings here are old and very beautiful. At first, I was living in an apartment with two American girls, but then I moved into a traditional dorm with a new American friend from my dance classes. From the beginning, I decided not to live with the other international students because I wanted to immerse myself with the local students. Where and how you live is really one of the most challenging tasks of studying abroad, but you learn a lot about yourself as well as other people.

What do you think about the local culture and people?

I'm still getting to know them! When I first arrived, I was bombarded with all the classic American foods and styles, but I am starting to realize it takes a lot longer than those initial experiences to understand a place and its people.

Do you think North Carolina is a place you could see yourself living in the future?

Yes, because it is a naturally beautiful place. I think I'd still want to live near the university, though, because of the friends and contacts I have made while studying here. It is definitely one of the major hubs of the city.

What travelling have you done so far, and where else do you plan to go?

I spent a month in the UK, then a week in New York and a week in Los Angeles before I came here. I also take several trips in the surrounding areas of North Carolina almost every weekend. I think I'll go to Washington, D.C. and back to New York again before I leave!

What is one tip you'd give to anyone thinking about going on an exchange program?

It helps if you really love studying something in particular and you want to pursue learning about it wherever you go. That passion has really helped motivate me when I felt homesick. You should also make it about the people you meet. There are always people who want to get to know you and help you out. Oh—and take your teddy.

What do you plan on doing for work in the future, and how do you think this exchange will impact that?

I want to spend some time in Australia and overseas working as a performing artist. This experience has made me more resilient in terms of being away from what I know in order to pursue something I really love doing. It has also shown me how you can do what you love anywhere in the world if you remain open to the possibility.

To read more about Daisy Sanders, visit the ECU Website.
**International Students**

**Spring 2013 International Student Orientation**

During the second week of January, the International Programs Center (IPC) welcomed 112 international exchange students to our campus, including 56 new students and 56 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 meeting their PALs and Staff PALs. 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, the Bryan School of Business and Economics, and Wells Fargo. Students were also invited to participate in several fun on- and off-campus activities throughout the week, including a trip to Four Seasons Mall, a Spartan Men’s Basketball Game, and the first Friday Fest of 2013.

This semester, we added a new peer-bonding activity to orientation week. All new international exchange students, UNCG student volunteers, and some PALs participated in a "speed meeting" exercise that allowed students to converse with several of their peers for 90-second intervals over the course of 30 minutes. Afterwards, the students were able to mingle with each other during the hot chocolate social.

IPC also welcomed 34 new degree-seeking international students, comprised of 21 undergraduate students and 13 graduate students. Among this number are also the first students from Côte d’Ivoire and Slovakia. As part of getting adjusted to life on campus, these students attended a four-hour orientation session with Michael Elliott and Norma Velazquez. These sessions covered administrative issues, on- and off-campus resources, visa and immigration issues, and full-time student status.

During orientation week and throughout the semester, IPC is always thankful for the help and support we receive from faculty, staff, and our student volunteers in welcoming our international students. A special thanks to everyone who helped make this semester’s orientations a success. We look forward to a great semester!

Interested in volunteering at IPC? Want to help organize future IPC events? Please contact us at ipc_desk@uncg.edu or call (336) 334-5404.

**INTERLINK/New Mind**

**Visit by Author Jennifer Thompson-Cannino**

This past December, INTERLINK student Amira Ayad (Egypt) arranged a surprise for the students in INTERLINK’s level-5 reading and writing classes. After reading the class book, Picking Cotton, she was so moved by the story that she contacted one of the authors, Jennifer Thompson-Cannino, and asked her to come speak to the classes. Thompson-Cannino generously agreed, and the students enjoyed asking her questions and hearing about her experiences since the book was published.
Spring 1, 2013 Session

INTERLINK’s Spring 1 session began on January 7 with a two-day orientation for new students. During orientation, new students took placement tests, met INTERLINK staff and other students, and participated in a variety of informational sessions designed to acquaint them with the program. Our 39 new students hail from 15 countries: Benin, Brazil, China, Germany, Kuwait, Iran, Libya, Morocco, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam. Approximately half of these new students entered with conditional admission to UNCG. INTERLINK’s overall enrollment is 119, up from 98 last spring.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

INTERLINK students visited the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in downtown Greensboro in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

To celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, INTERLINK students were offered the opportunity to visit the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, located at the site of the former Woolworth’s Department Store in downtown Greensboro. INTERLINK’s program assistant, Lamar Gibson, accompanied the students. Before the tour, students witnessed the unveiling of a new exhibition of rare photographs from the Civil Rights Era. They also met with civil rights activists who were part of the museum’s celebration, and they shared experiences about civil rights issues in their own countries.

Conversation-Partners Program

This session, our well-known Conversation-Partners Program took a different approach and partnered primarily with one UNCG class. Professor Dorothy Davis (Anthropology Department) saw the program as an opportunity for her students to connect with international students while simultaneously completing an assignment for her course, the Anthropology of Children. Twenty-five students from her class have been paired with INTERLINK students and will meet for one hour each week to discuss a variety of topics relating to childhood in different countries. Participating students have expressed excitement about the program and are looking forward to interacting with new friends from different cultures. This collaboration is a great example of cross-cultural learning that satisfies both personal and academic goals.

Transnational Perspectives Discussion Series

The Transnational Perspectives Discussion Series is a new INTERLINK-hosted program. The purpose of the program is to bring together students from all over the world to discuss timely issues from multiple perspectives. The discussions are moderated and semi-structured so that all participants have an opportunity to share their ideas and opinions. The first session took place on January 16 and focused on educational systems around the world. The second session, held on January 30, dealt with shifting economic structures. Approximately 35 INTERLINK and UNCG students participated in both sessions, which were lively and engaging. Future topics include “Partnership, Love, and Marriage Traditions” (February 13) and “Religion in Culture and Society” (February 27). Anyone on campus is welcome to attend. Sessions take place in the Faculty Center from 2:30-3:30pm on the dates indicated above.
New Mind: Service-Learning Event at Kopper Top Life Learning Center, Liberty, NC

In January 2013, the staff and students of New Mind Education welcomed three new students to the University Preparatory Program at UNCG (UPP@UNCG) family. These students come from all regions of China, including Shanghai and Inner Mongolia. Soon after their arrival, the new students participated in a service-learning event at Kopper Top Life Learning Center in Liberty, NC, with New Mind staff and students. Kopper Top is a family-owned, non-profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals, enhancing quality of life, and providing therapy, education, and recreation to individuals with or without disabilities through interactions with animals. The New Mind team helped the center prepare their animals and facilities for upcoming therapy sessions by feeding the animals and cleaning stalls, coops, pens, and other areas of the farm. At the end of the day, the directors of Kopper Top invited the New Mind team to join them in building a bonfire, roasting marshmallows, and eating s’mores, an American tradition that was new to many of the students.

This event was not only the first opportunity of the semester for everyone to bond and get to know each other but also an excellent way to show the importance of service-learning and giving back to the local community. The New Mind staff and students look forward to what the rest of the semester will bring!

For more information about Kopper Top Life Learning Center, please visit http://www.koppertop.org/.

New Mind students and staff kicked off Spring Semester 2013 by volunteering at Kopper Top Life Learning Center in Liberty, NC

Welcome, New Staff!

Emily Christiansen, Assistant Director of UNC Exchange Programs

IPC is pleased to welcome Emily Christiansen, the new Assistant Director of UNC Exchange Programs (UNCEP). As of January 15, she will be assisting UNCEP Interim Director Dr. Catherine Holderness in overseeing the operations of UNCEP. Emily returns to campus from UNC-Asheville, where she worked as the Program Coordinator for the Humanities and Arts & Ideas programs. In addition to receiving her Master’s degree in Library Science here at UNCG in 2009, she previously worked as an Administrative Assistant in the Bryan School of Business and Economics before moving to Asheville. She first fell in love with traveling in high school, when she took her first trip abroad to England and Scotland as part of an English class. As an undergraduate at Guilford College, she also studied abroad in Munich, Germany, while completing her Bachelor’s degrees in Political Science and German. Emily is very excited to become a part of the IPC Staff, and we are so happy to have her!

For more information about New Mind Education at UNCG, please contact Hao Zhang at hzhang@newmindedu.com.
Au'brei McKoy-Marshall, Graduate Assistant for Study Abroad and Exchange

Au'brei McKoy-Marshall is one of our new graduate assistants for Study Abroad and Exchange (SAE). Originally from Raleigh, NC, Au'brei earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies at UNCG in May 2012 and is now a graduate student in the Counseling and Educational Development program (Clinical Mental Health Track). In the summer of 2011, she participated in a three-week faculty-led study abroad program in Costa Rica through the Counseling and Educational Department. As a graduate assistant, she is excited to start working with students on a one-on-one basis.

J.D. Draughn, IPC Graduate Assistant

Originally from High Point, NC, J.D. Draughn previously worked in the furniture industry, designing finishes for furniture and other home products. His work took him to Indonesia, where he lived from 1989 to 1991, and to China in 2010. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Ceramics and Sculpture at UNCG in the summer of 2012. During his last semester as an undergraduate, he participated in a faculty-led study abroad program to Florence, Italy. After this trip, he was inspired to encourage other students, particularly those studying the arts, to study abroad. J.D. is currently working on a Masters of Fine Arts degree in Ceramics and Sculpture at UNCG. We would like to thank the Art Department for allowing him to work with us!

Karl Galloway, UNCEP Student Employee

Karl Galloway is the new student employee for the UNC Exchange Program (UNCEP). A Lloyd International Honors Student, Karlis junior here at UNCG, studying Spanish and Anthropology. Karl just returned from Brazil, where he studied at the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná in Curitiba, Paraná, from July 2012 to January 2013. In addition to studying abroad, Karl also spent a year in Spain during his junior year of high school. As a UNCEP employee, he will be helping process applications and advising students who are considering studying abroad.

Elizabeth Bower, Study Abroad and Exchange Intern, January 2013

IPC was pleased to have Elizabeth Bower as an undergraduate intern for Study Abroad and Exchange (SAE) during the month of January. Elizabeth came to us from Hollins University in Roanoke, VA, where she is majoring in International Studies. She chose to intern at IPC because she had heard UNCG had an excellent study abroad program, and she wanted to work with international students at the college level. Prior to interning at UNCG, she also interned at Carlisle School, an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School in Martinsville, VA, where she worked with international high school students. During her internship at IPC, Elizabeth helped organize the International Students Orientation Week and the Study Abroad Expo. Elizabeth will spend her final semester studying abroad at the University of London in London, England and interning at the University of East Anglia. We were glad to have Elizabeth as part of our team, and we wish her the best in her future endeavors!

Congratulations, Kaitlin Ritchie!

Congratulations to Kaitlin for her new title as our Assistant Director of the Study Abroad and Exchange program. Kaitlin will continue with her incoming exchange responsibilities here at IPC.
UNCG and Beyond

University News

“Robin M. McGee Receives Fulbright Award”
School of Music, Theater and Dance

“Feet in two worlds: Gee will study dance styles in Burkina Faso”
University News

“ELC Welcomes Dr. Joon Jong Son as 2013 Visiting Scholar”

Organic Unity: News from the Department of Educational Leadership & Cultural Foundations at UNCG

“From Uzbekistan to the US: Short Chronicle of a Virtual Internship Experience”
By Beth Filar Williams, Iskander Rakhmatullaev, and Elena Corradini
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Section for Education and Training (SET) Bulletin (p. 9)

Beth Filar Williams is a distance education librarian at UNCG’s Jackson Library. To read more about her involvement in the Digital Libraries Learning (DILL) program, please visit the follow links:
"Beth Filar Williams guest lectures at University of Parma" (eNewsworthy)
"International Librarianship: Beth Filar Williams visits digital libraries program in Italy" (School of Education)

News from our Partners

“Pontifíca Universidade Católica do Paraná (PUCPR) wins ‘Internationalization Award Highlights of the Year’ category in Student Guide 2012”
PUCPR (Brazil) News

“The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) Kicks off its 50th Anniversary Celebrations to Perpetuate Humanistic Spirit and Share Love and Care with the Community”
CUHK Communication and Public Relations Office (Hong Kong)

Official CUHK 50th Anniversary Celebration Website

Upcoming Events

March 2013

March 6 Travel Grant Application Deadline for Summer Programs
Mar. 9-17 Spring Break