UNCG is ready to implement ACE Taskforce recommendations

I am happy to report that after two years of work on the ACE Internationalization Laboratory, UNCG is ready to implement recommendations made by the UNCG Internationalization Taskforce. In 2010 Provost David H. Perrin appointed an Internationalization Taskforce supported by the ACE Internationalization Laboratory. At that time, Provost Perrin stated in his charge to the Taskforce, “With the declaration of internationalization as one of its five strategic directions, UNCG has committed itself to integrating international and intercultural perspectives and experiences into its teaching, learning and service. By working in a concerted collaborative and inclusive manner, UNCG can improve its approach to international education, make it contribute to the benefit of the entire university community, and gain the recognition the University deserves.”

Since that initial charge, the Taskforce has completed its report making recommendations that will aid faculty weave student international competencies into coursework and co-curricular activities and raise the visibility of international accomplishments (submitted December 2011). The ACE external Review team visited campus (March 2012) and subsequently submitted its report (May 2012). In the response the external review team lauded UNCG’s strength in student exchange and strong basis for internationalization. Provost Perrin announced at the Faculty Convocation (September 2012) that UNCG is ready to implement various recommendations found in the report. At the Faculty Senate meeting held on October 3, Jerry Pubantz and I (as co-chairs of the Taskforce) introduced briefly the Taskforce’s work and asked for the Faculty and Faculty Senate’s support in the process from here. The IPC Advisory Committee has been tapped to work with the faculty senate to begin the process of honing the competencies and finding ways to incorporate them into the curriculum. A faculty senate forum on this topic will be held later this semester.

I would like to recognize the members of the Taskforce for their hard work and leadership over the past two years: Drs. Susan Andreatta, Department of Anthropology; Alan Boyette, Office of the Provost; Roberto Campo (Sub-committee Co-Chair), Language, Literature and Culture; Sarah Carrigan, Office of Institutional Research; Micheline Chalhoub-Deville, Department of Educational Research Methodology; C.P. Gause, Department of Teacher Education & Higher Education; Byoungho Jin, Department of Consumer Apparel & Retail Studies; Kevin Lowe, Department of Business Administration; Kathleen Macfie, Language, Literature and Culture; Vicki McNeil, Division of Student Affairs; David Nelson, School of Music, Cathryne Schmitz (Sub-committee Co-Chair), Department of Conflict and Peace studies/Social Work; and Anita Tesh, Dean’s Office, School of Nursing. Assisting the taskforce was Stephen Flynn, who served as Administrative Assistant to the taskforce.

To read the complete report and response visit the IPC homepage. Interested in learning more about the Taskforce’s research or want to be involved in the implementation process? Feel free to contact Penelope Pynes via email at pjpynes@uncg.edu.

German Weeks 2012: Think Transatlantic!

By Dr. Susanne Rinner, Assistant Professor of German Studies, Languages, Literatures & Cultures Department

This fall, the German Program at UNCG is one of only twenty-five campus partners nationwide participating in German Weeks 2012: Think Transatlantic! The event is supported by a grant from the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. and provides students with the opportunity to study the transatlantic relationship between Germany and the United States from a variety of perspectives.

Dr. Susanne Rinner welcoming guest speaker Dr. Katrin Sieg from Georgetown University
In the 18th century, “America” existed in the German imagination as a symbol of freedom and opportunity. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe expressed these sentiments famously in his poem “America” stating that the new world offers a rare chance of living without the burden of the past and provides the hope of new beginnings. In the 19th century slowly and in the 20th century with full force, these optimistic and even utopian readings and appropriations were overshadowed by a perhaps more realistic understanding of the United States as a country that had built her own history. Germany, first as a divided country during the Cold War and then as a unified country in a new global constellation after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, served as an important partner in the exploration of the discourse on freedom and its political, legal, social, economic, and cultural ramifications. Historical events such as the liberation of Europe from Nazi rule through the Allies, the American support of European recovery after 1945 and against the threats posed by the Eastern bloc during the Cold War, provide ample evidence of the urgency to develop a sophisticated, while still accessible notion of freedom. In conjunction with the discourse on freedom, the United States, in particular its cultural and academic institutions, has begun to participate in discourses on memory that aim to shape the significance of the past to create meaning for the present and the future.

The interest in freedom and memory on both sides of the Atlantic further strengthen the transatlantic relationship. While maintaining its status as the new world, processes of remembering and its flipside, forgetting, and their conscious manifestations via memorials, museums, and celebrations acknowledge the coming-of-age of the United States as a country with a history that has to preserve its legacy like the old continent. These shared concerns shape processes of globalization and ensure that the West remains relevant within a new global constellation that decenters the West but does not deem it irrelevant.

There are numerous opportunities for all to engage with German Weeks 2012: Think Transatlantic! The course, GER 406/GEO 491: The Transatlantic Relationship, facilitates a discussion of the past, present, and future of the relationship between the United States, Germany, and Europe with a focus on the repercussions of issues such as energy, security, migration, and human rights. The first week of class provided an opportunity for a live meeting with visiting Fulbright students from Germany. Everybody engaged in a lively discussion about German and American perspectives on education, politics, and the economy. Under the guidance of Drs. Corey Johnson (Assistant Professor of Geography, UNCG) and Susanne Rinner (Assistant Professor of German Studies and Director of Undergraduate Studies in German, UNCG), students are reading a variety of texts, analyzing contemporary political and social issues, and contextualizing the transatlantic relationship within a global context. Students will prepare to participate in campus competitions, which will be held in the last week of the semester. Campus winners will have the opportunity to participate in a meeting at the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. in the spring where national finalists will be chosen. If selected, students will then go on a free trip to Berlin! In conjunction with German Weeks 2012, the German Program hosted an interdisciplinary speaker series that brought three experts to campus who shed light on different aspects of the transatlantic relationship. Dr. Andrew Zimmerman, Professor of History and...
International Affairs at George Washington University, spoke about the triangle between the American South, Germany, and the German colonies in Africa in a talk entitled Booker T. Washington and the German Empire in West Africa. Dr. Katrin Sieg, Professor of German at Georgetown University, spoke about the history of Africans and African-Americans in Germany in a talk titled “Transatlantic Transfers: Performing Race Transnationally.” Steve Szabo, Executive Director of the Transatlantic Academy in Washington, D.C. spoke about “Germany as a Geoeconomic Power: The Case of Russia.” His talk focused on issues of energy dependency and security in the twenty-first century.

Most recently, the German Program celebrated the German Day of Unity on October 3, 2012 and the German -American Day on October 6, 2012! On Friday, October 26, Dr. Britta Kallin, Associate Professor of German at the Georgia Institute of Technology will present a talk in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the first edition of the brothers Grimm’s Fairy Tales! The talk will take place at 10 AM in McIver 028. All are welcome to attend! For more information about German Weeks, please contact Dr. Rinner at s_rinner@uncg.edu!

Pamela Harrod presents at OACAC conference

Pamela Harrod, Director of International Admissions, presented a session at the Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC) conference, which was held at the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado on July 10-12, 2012. Kenneth Warren, President of Educational Perspectives, a credential evaluation agency based in Chicago, was the co-presenter. Mr. Warren is also the current Executive Director of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) and is an expert in the field of foreign credential evaluations. Their session, External Examinations: Understanding GCSEs, SSCs, WASSCs, CXCcs, KCSEs, and Other Examinations, dealt with external examinations, which many educational systems have students take upon completion of secondary schooling. (These are similar to the U.S. AP examinations.) Topics included: the pros and cons of preparing examinations in-house versus those of outsourcing to evaluation agencies, the examinations for which U.S. colleges should consider awarding transfer credit, and the procedures to follow to determine transfer credit.

Due to the many considerations that must be taken into account while evaluating external examinations, such as up-to-date knowledge of the curriculum for each subject for each country, level of difficulty of each examination, possible grade inflation, and authentication of documents, the audience had many questions for the presenters.

First AASCU/NAFSA Institute for New Senior International Officers held in Washington, D.C.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and NAFSA: Association for International Educators (NAFSA) offered their first Institute for New Senior International Officers (SIO) on September 18-20, 2012, in Washington, D.C. The institute designed for SIOs working on AASCU member campuses was attended by approximately 20 SIOs. Arlene Jackson, Director of International Education (AASCU) and Robert Stableski, Senior Advisor for Planning and Service Development (NAFSA) invited Richard Sutton, Senior Partner and CEO (Global Design Consulting Services), Karl Markgraf, Director, Center of International Education (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire), and UNCG’s Penelope Pynes to design the curriculum and present with them at the institute. The program addressed topics critical to SIO areas for which they are responsible including regulation, risk management, institutional partnership development, principles of internationalization, outcome assessment, and budgetary matters. Given the response to the institute it looks like this may become an annual event.

Congratulations to all involved!

Dr. Brad Teague and Lynn Bergschneider present at SETESOL Conference

Dr. Brad Teague (Director, INTERLINK) and Lynn Bergschneider (Academic Coordinator, INTERLINK) recently presented at the Southeast Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (SETESOL) Conference, held from September 26-29, 2012 in Knoxville, Tennessee. The SETESOL Conference is an annual meeting that involves educators from eleven states in the southeast region of the U.S. Its parent organization, TESOL, is a non-profit international organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. SETESOL’s
mission is to collect and disseminate information about developments in the teaching of English as a second language and to stimulate professional development by arranging for regional annual conferences.

Dr. Teague and Ms. Bergschneider co-presented a session entitled “Orienting New Teachers to an Intensive English Program,” and Ms. Bergschneider presented a second session alone on “Integrating Cultural Exploration into Academic IEP (Intensive English Program) Curricula.” Both sessions were well-received. Next year’s SETESOL conference will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina around the same time of the year.

Michael Elliot and Norma Velazquez facilitate F-1 Beginner and Intermediate Workshops

Michael Elliott, Director of International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS), and Norma Velazquez, Assistant Director of ISSS, each co-facilitated F-1 workshops at Davidson Community College on October 5, 2012. These workshops were part of the North Carolina Association of International Educators (NCAIE) Fall Professional Development Workshop series and were designed to help Designated School Officials (DSOs) better understand both the basics of using the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) as well as other DSO responsibilities. An affiliate of NAFSA, NCAIE is a professional organization of over 600 administrators, educators, and community volunteers that is committed to supporting and developing professionals and volunteers in the international education field and promoting the cause of international education in North Carolina. They typically offer these professional development workshops at the state level twice a year, including one at the NCAIE conference in the spring semester.

Norma co-facilitated the F-1 beginner workshop with Pascale Toussaint, Information and Admissions Specialist at the Office of International Admissions at North Carolina State University, and Michael presented the intermediate workshop with Francois Masuka, Director of International Student and Faculty Scholar Services at Elon University. Forty-five DSOs from all around North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia attended the two F-1 workshops while another workshop focused on the J-1 student category. The F-1 beginner workshop is for newer DSOs, covering the basics of using SEVIS, issuing I-20s, and other regulations and requirements associated with the F-1 category. The intermediate workshop covered more complex issues and situations and revolved around case studies concerning various DSO responsibilities. Essentially, the goal of these workshops is to help DSOs better aid incoming international students in obtaining their visas and effectively tackle any complications that may arise. These workshops are especially beneficial for DSOs from smaller schools because they allow them not only to stay up to date on current policies and regulations but also to connect and share resources with others in the international education field.

For more information about the NCAIE and their professional development workshops, please visit their website at http://www.ncaie.org/index.html

Pynes is new Chair elect for the NAFSA International Educational Leadership Knowledge (IELK) Community

Congratulations to Penelope Pynes who has been elected Chair elect of the NAFSA International Educational Leadership Knowledge (IELK) Community. This three year leadership role will culminate in the 2014 Annual NAFSA Conference in San Diego. NAFSA’s IELK is pivotal to the development of new leadership talent in the field of international education. Nell looks forward in engaging as many colleagues as possible during her three year commitment.

International Students

Academic Achievement Awards Reception for Degree-Seeking International Students

On September 20, 2012, IPC honored degree-seeking international students at UNCG at the Academic Achievement Awards Reception for Degree-Seeking International Students. For more information about the NCAIE and their professional development workshops, please visit their website at http://www.ncaie.org/index.html

Dr. Brad Teague (far left), Dr. Laura Chesak (second from left), Pamela Harrod (bottom left), and Norma Velazquez (far right) with the Academic Achievement Award winners.
Achievement Awards Reception. The students gathered to celebrate each other’s academic successes and were joined by the following UNCG faculty and staff: Dr. Laura Chesak (Associate Dean of the Graduate School), Dr. Brad Teague (Director of INTERLINK Language Center), Pamela Harrod (Director of International Admissions), Michael Elliott (Director of International Student and Scholar Services), and Norma Velazquez (Assistant Director of International Student and Scholar Services). Students were most appreciative of the Academic Achievement Awards Reception as it brought together students from different nations and academic programs at UNCG. Among those awarded was Mohamed Berray (Cairo, Egypt), a degree-seeking Fulbright graduate student in the Library and Information Studies program who has received the reward three consecutive semesters. Another recipient, a doctoral student in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program, shared her appreciation for IPC’s efforts in providing a supporting environment for international students and celebrating their academic successes. During spring semester 2012, a total of 126 undergraduate and graduate degree-seeking international students achieved a 3.5 or better GPA, a prerequisite for this award. Congratulations to all!

**Special Programs**

**UNCG International and Global Studies holds Asian Autumn Festival**

On Saturday, October 6, UNCG International and Global Studies (IGS) presented the Asian Autumn Festival, a celebration of the diversity of East and Southeast Asian cultures. Dean Timothy Johnston opened the festival with welcoming remarks in the Sullivan Science Building. The festival was attended by approximately 600-800 people from UNCG and other Greensboro communities. The festival built on the previous success of the 2008-2010 Mid-Autumn Asian Moon Festivals, which focused on the celebration of the autumn moon popular in Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean, and Vietnamese cultures. This year, IGS sought to revamp the event, renaming it the “Asian Autumn Festival.” The newly conceived celebration aimed to encompass the rich diversity of Asian cultures in general, and included participation from UNCG’s Japanese Studies program and members of the local Hmong and Montagnard/Daga communities.

As promised, festival attendees were able to experience and enjoy many different facets of Asian culture. Several performances and presentations were held in Mead Auditorium throughout the day, including presentations on Japanese fashion and the Korean Chuseok Holiday (autumn harvest festival), as well as performances on traditional instruments such as the Erhu (Chinese two-stringed violin), Qeej (Chinese woodwind instrument, usually consisting of five or six bamboo pipes), and the Gu Zheng (Chinese plucked zither). In the lobby, attendees could participate in ongoing workshops and demonstrations featuring several Asian art forms, such as origami, Chinese calligraphy, and Chinese paper-cutting. Attendees were also able to sample a wide variety of Asian food, including mooncakes, the rich, delicious pastries traditionally eaten during the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival.

Kudos to all those who made this annual event such a success.

The Asian Autumn Festival was co-sponsored by The International Programs Center Kohler Fund.
Student Highlights

Staff Senate PAL Program—A Positive Experience

By Sanni Heiskanen, International Exchange Student from the University of Oulu in Finland

The Staff Senate PAL program is a lot like the PAL (Peer Advisor and Liaison) program, but instead of being a student the PAL is a member of the UNCG staff. The goal of the program is to help exchange students adjust to life at UNCG, Greensboro, and the United States. The Staff PAL program was first started in Spring 2012, with five UNCG staff members participating.

My Staff PAL for Spring Semester 2012 was Janet Hendley, the Assistant Director of Development in the School of Nursing. Before I even arrived at UNCG, she emailed me to introduce herself and informed me that she had been chosen as my Staff PAL. Her email made me feel I would be welcomed when I arrived, and I was glad to know that someone was waiting for me at an unknown place. I met her in person for the first time at the Chancellor's Welcome Reception for international students on January 17. She was really friendly and understanding of my situation because she is originally from England and knows what it is like to live in an unfamiliar culture.

One of the best experiences I had with Janet was when she took my mom and me to Asheville. When I first arrived in Greensboro, I mentioned that my mom would be visiting later in the spring, and Janet said that this may be a great opportunity for all of us to visit her sister and brother-in-law in Asheville, NC, a city that is about three hours west of Greensboro, for a weekend. So, on March 22-29, Janet drove my mom and me to Asheville. We saw the mountains, the town, and a bit of Hendersonville as well. Janet’s knowledge of the area and her family’s hospitality definitely helped make the trip a truly enriching experience for both of us.

Apart from the trip to Asheville, Janet invited me over to her house one Sunday to have traditional English tea with two of her students and one of her friends. It was wonderful to see her home, and I had a nice time talking with everyone over delicious homemade sandwiches, tarts, and tea. Janet was also kind enough to take me to see the opera at UNCG. She also took me out to dinner before I left Greensboro and even drove me to the bus station on the day of my departure.

I absolutely recommend the Staff PAL program to all incoming exchange students! Having a Staff PAL like Janet really opened up a lot of opportunities to me that made my exchange experience richer and more memorable. She was like a combination of a friend, a sister, and a mother to me while I was away from home, and my time as an exchange student at UNCG was definitely a lot better having someone who I could turn to at all times. I am very grateful that I had this experience.

For more information about the Staff PAL program, contact IPC at Visitors & Scholars 334-5404.
We are expecting one more scholar later this fall: Kristin Bowey (Canada) will be conducting research in the School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering with Dr. Marinella Sandros.

UNCG typically hosts approximately 50 scholars per year. To learn more about inviting scholars, contact Mike Elliott, Director, International Student and Scholar Services mjellio2@uncg.edu

Malmö University, Sweden

On September 24-26, IPC was pleased to host Linda Holm, International Relations Officer at Malmö University in Malmö, Sweden. Linda, somewhat new to the field of international education, came to learn more about UNCG and IPC office operations before heading off to other Malmö partners in the U.S. For that reason, most of her time was spent with various IPC staff, including Denise Bellamy (IPC Director of Study Abroad and Exchange), Kaitlin Ritchie (IPC Incoming Exchange Coordinator), Angie Kapely (IPC Study Abroad Coordinator), Dr. Catherine Holderness (Interim Director of the University of North Carolina Exchange Program), and Tom Martinek, Jr. (IPC Assistant Director of Study Abroad and Exchange).
University of Konstanz, Germany

On October 6-9, IPC welcomed Dr. Werner Palz, Coordinator of International Exchange and MA Programmes in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Konstanz in Konstanz, Germany. The purpose of this visit was to help nurture our new Dual-Degree Program with the University of Konstanz. Dr. Palz spent a few days on campus meeting with students currently in the program and those interested in the exchange for 2014, using the time to further refine the dual-degree initiative based on feedback from students participating this academic year, faculty, and IPC staff discussions. The visit included meeting with Dr. Penelope Pynes (IPC Associate Provost), Tom Martinek, Jr., Denise Bellamy, Kaitlin Ritchie, Dr. Tom Matyók (Director of International Studies; Program in Conflict and Peace Studies, UNCG), Dr. Cathryne Schmitz (Director, Conflict and Peace Studies, UNCG), Dr. Celia Hooper (Dean of the UNCG School of Health and Human Sciences) and current Konstanz international exchange students Stephanie Smith and Anna Mergelmeyer. Dr. Palz also attended an information session for UNCG students interested in the program and took a campus tour with Angie Kapely and Logan Stanfield, IPC Study Abroad Coordinators.

Dr. Nancy Walker teaches at Inner Mongolia University for the Nationalities

From May 6 through June 14, 2012, Dr. Nancy Walker, a voice area professor in the UNCG Music Program, and her husband, Dr. Timothy Lindeman, professor of music (theory and piano) and Department Chair of the Music Program at Guilford College, taught for four weeks at the Inner Mongolia University for the Nationalities (IMUN) in Tongliao, China. The couple was invited to teach voice and piano to selected music students at the university through a partnership recently forged between UNCG and IMUN. About 18,000 undergraduate students are enrolled at IMUN, and available programs include a strong teacher education program as well as studies in traditional Mongolian arts and sciences.

Drs. Walker and Lindeman each taught twenty hours a week of individual lessons. These lessons were open to the university community and usually had an audience of ten to twenty other students, faculty, and administrators. Walker taught students who were studying Italian and some German operatic and art song literature. The students were well-prepared, talented, and possessed a strong work ethic. Because few of the students spoke English, a translator was used for every lesson.
One of the highlights of the four-week trip was the opportunity to exchange ideas about teaching styles and repertoire with other faculty. In addition to discussing students’ needs and abilities with Walker, some of the IMUN faculty also requested lessons from her. These lessons served as a wonderful way to discuss ideas about technique, style, interpretation, tradition, and diction for singing. Walker and Lindeman also attended several campus events, including a “Welcome Banquet” with several Music School faculty and administration, including the IMUN Vice President and other university leaders, as well as several student and faculty performances, some of which featured traditional singing, dancing, and traditional instruments such as the Er-Hu (two-stringed violin) and the Matouqin (Mongolian "horsehead fiddle").

Walker and Lindeman concluded their stay at IMU by giving a recital, which featured performances by both professors as well as eight student singers and three student pianists chosen by Walker and Lindeman to perform pieces they had been preparing over the course of the four-week period. The concert hall was filled to capacity and was attended by the university President.

UNCG’s next step is to invite a faculty member from IMUN to reciprocate in the exchange by teaching here.

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New Mind Education is pleased to announce that they have found a new home at the International Programs Center (IPC). Based out of Raleigh, NC, New Mind works to inspire and cultivate global talent by recruiting, supporting, and educating international students. The company’s founder and CEO, Michael Chen, a former international student himself, had a vision to establish an organization that would empower and enable international students for long-term success. New Mind believes that simply knowing the language of a country is not enough; a cross-cultural education is essential to succeed in an ever-changing, global society. The mission of New Mind is to help international students succeed by giving them the skills and support they need to become global leaders.

Collaborating with U.S. universities and other educational partners, New Mind developed the University Preparatory Program (UPP) to assist international students who are academically ready for American universities but need a stronger language and cultural foundation to make a smooth transition to their new environment.

At UNCG, New Mind works with IPC’s International Admissions to recruit students who qualify for conditional admission to the university. To improve their language proficiency, New Mind relies on the experience and...
expertise of INTERLINK and its staff. Complementing their language training, New Mind educates students through its Global Learning Curriculum, which focuses on helping students to gain intercultural competence and assimilate into life in the U.S. Finally, New Mind supports students’ foundational needs through the 360° Total Care™, which includes housing selection, student life development, one-on-one advising, tutoring, and even a parent engagement service to inform parents of their child’s life in the U.S.

The New Mind UNCG team has five members who are passionate about and committed to international education: Program Director, Hao Zhang; Lead Adviser, Lauren Hudson; Adviser, Enoch Chow; and Peer Mentors, Frandasia Williams and Li Chao Zheng.

This past August, New Mind welcomed eight students to its first class of students at UNCG. The New Mind students and staff look forward to continuing our partnership with UNCG. Want to know more? Please contact Hao Zhang at hzhang@newmindedu.com

INTERLINK—Student Activities

During the month of September, INTERLINK students visited Greensboro’s International Civil Rights Center and Museum. The museum is housed at the site of the former Woolworth’s Department Store in the heart of downtown. Students participated in a one-hour tour to learn about the struggle for civil rights across the South and beyond. One student described the experience as “heartbreaking but inspiring.” Other students talked about connections between the civil rights movement and current movements for equality around the world.

Dr. George Guo, Professor of Political Science at Guilford College, hosted a discussion with upper-level INTERLINK students who have spent this term studying the political system of the United States. Dr. Guo’s talk gave students an opportunity to participate in a university-level lecture and discussion on a topic with which they have become somewhat familiar. Accordingly, the exchange was rich and insightful.

Ed Whitfield, a world-renowned flutist, recently visited INTERLINK to perform and discuss flute music from around the world. After playing music from the U.S. and from several INTERLINK students’ countries, Mr. Whitfield led a discussion on how music allows people to connect across cultures and languages. Toward the end of the session, some students were inspired to sing their national anthems and favorite songs.

On September 26th, INTERLINK students were given the opportunity to go downtown for an American Dining Experience. Accompanied by program assistant Lamar Gibson, they stopped at a local grille, where they had hamburgers, hot dogs, and grilled cheese. They then went to a dessert shop to taste delicious cookies and pound cake.
INTERLINK’s Fall 1 term came to an end on Thursday, October 11th. Graduating and departing students were recognized at a ceremony beginning at 9:00 that morning at the College Park Baptist Church. Moreover, select students were presented with awards to acknowledge the accomplishments they have made during the past nine weeks. The ceremony is open to the public. If you are interested in attending future ceremonies, please RSVP to Casey Thomas, INTERLINK’s administrative assistant, at thomascm@interlink.edu.

INTERLINK’s Fall 2 term began on Monday, October 15th. The Fall 2 term will run for nine weeks and conclude on Friday, December 14th.

Among the new arrivals, INTERLINK welcomed five Omani students and five Japanese students. The Omani students are participating on a new scholarship program through the Omani government, and they will continue on as UNCG students upon completion of INTERLINK. The five Japanese students will continue on at Disney World in Orlando after their nine-week stay here at UNCG. These students contribute to the diversity initiatives undertaken by INTERLINK and IPC. This term’s cohort is the largest to date.

Mohammed Dayili, from Saudi Arabia, will complete Reading/Writing level 5, his last class at INTERLINK, on October 11. After INTERLINK, he plans to apply to MBA programs and pursue a specialization in marketing. To this end, Dayili is taking full advantage of INTERLINK’s recently revamped modules, which function as guided independent studies that give students credit for participating in relevant activities in English on and off UNCG’s campus. Dayili, for instance, has joined Delta Sigma Pi, a fraternity for students interested in business. According to him, “[Delta Sigma Pi] is a global organization that gives you the chance to network with professionals, search for jobs, become a leader, and become connected in the Bryan School.” He is also drawn to the leadership and community-service opportunities the organization provides its members, such as the certificate in leadership he is currently pursuing through UNCG’s Office of Leadership and Service Learning (OLSL). As a part of his service, Dayili volunteered at the Welfare Reform Project. When asked if his co-curricular activities were preparing him for his future MBA, he emphatically responded, “Absolutely.” INTERLINK’s new module program is not the only way that Dayili is preparing for graduate study. He is also auditing a Principles of Marketing class, which allows him to make connections between the papers he writes for his INTERLINK reading/writing class and the UNCG business course. “I see connections between the reflections at INTERLINK, the responses I write in my business class, the community service, and my fraternity. It is all connected. It all helps.” INTERLINK students in upper levels are highly encouraged to audit UNCG courses because doing so gives them firsthand exposure to U.S. classes while extending their language learning through meaningful content.
**Upcoming Events**

**October 2012**

Oct. 17 Study Abroad Nomination List for Spring 2013 (after 1:00pm, Foust 207)

Oct. 17 Faculty-Led Study Abroad Risk Management (EUC Elm, 2:00-3:30)

Oct. 17 Degree-seeking workshop: Maintain your F-1 (and J-1 degree seeking) status: under enrollment and programs/ courses (McIver 255, half hour session: 3:30pm, 4:00pm, 4:30pm)

Oct. 18 Degree-seeking workshop: Maintain F-1 (and J-1 degree seeking status: under enrollment and online programs/ courses (McIver 255, half hour session: 3:30pm, 4:00pm, 4:30pm)

Oct. 26 Kohler Application Deadline for faculty

Oct. 26 Friday Fest: Uruguay

Oct. 27 UNCG Study Abroad Pre-Departure Orientation (TBC, 9:00am-5:00pm)

**November 2012**

Nov. 2 Friday Fest: Kenya (Phillip-Hawkins Residence Hall, 2:00pm-4:00pm)

Nov. 7 Study Abroad Academic Nuts & Bolts Workshop (TBC, 3:30-5:00pm)

Nov. 8 Study Abroad Academic Nuts & Bolts Workshop (EUC Maple, 3:30-5:00pm)

Nov. 9 Friday Fest: Netherlands (Phillip-Hawkins Residence Hall, 2:00pm-4:00pm)

Nov. 12-16 International Education Week (IEW) (EUC Commons, EUC Elm, Phillips, McIver 255, etc.)

Nov. 13 Beyond OTP Workshop (EUC Ferguson, All Day)

Nov. 13 Study Abroad Financial Workshop (EUC Kirkland, 3:30-5:00pm)

Nov. 14 Beyond OPT Consultation (Foust 104, All Day)

Nov. 14 Financial Workshop (EUC Maple, 3:30-5:00pm)

Nov. 14 OPT Workshop Session II (EUC Long Leaf Pine, 3:30-5:00pm)

Nov. 14 Faculty-Led Study Abroad Program Director’s Meeting (EUC Student Conference Room A, 2:30-4:30pm)

Nov. 15 CPT Workshop (EUC Dogwood, 3:30-5:00pm)

Nov. 16 Special Friday Fest: Korea (iHouse, 3:00-5:00pm)

Nov. 21-25 ISA Trip—New York City

Nov. 28 Degree-seeking workshop: Travel Overseas Workshop—3 Sessions (Foust 101 & 104, 3:30-5:30pm)

Nov. 28 ISA Semi Formal

Nov. 29 Degree-seeking workshop: Travel Overseas Workshop—3 Sessions (Foust 101 & 104, 3:30-5:30pm)