Author Visit Draws First-Year Students to Discuss Where Am I Wearing?

On October 7, 2015, author Kelsey Timmerman visited UNCG to discuss his New York Times best-selling book, Where Am I Wearing? A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People that Make Our Clothes. Inspired to learn more about how his own clothes were made during a college Sociology class, Kelsey visited Honduras, China, Bangladesh and Cambodia, meeting garment workers and hearing their stories of their role in the global apparel industry.

Where Am I Wearing? was selected to be the 2015 Keker First Year Common Read (KFYCR), a book chosen by a committee of faculty, staff and students for all first-year students to read in their first semesters at UNCG. With the support of Global Engagement, 2,500 students received a copy of the book at Spartan Orientation, Advising and Registration (SOAR) prior to beginning their studies at UNCG.

Throughout the semester, departments across campus held programming related to the book, including an art gallery (Office of Intercultural Engagement and Global Engagement), a book talk (Friends of the UNCG Libraries) and t-shirt tie-dyeing event (Office of Housing and Residence Life). The author visit on October 7 served as the highlight of the KFYCR initiative.

While at UNCG, Kelsey held an intimate book discussion, spoke at a luncheon for 240 attendees and gave a lecture to nearly 1,200 first-year students.

During the book discussion, Kelsey explained how meeting a 26 year-old Honduran garment worker named Amilcar inspired him to begin the journey that would ultimately take him around the world in search of his clothing’s origins. “One thing that Amilcar taught me is when we start with stories, we can sit down and have a conversation from a place that starts with humanity.”

He continued to emphasize the importance of stories throughout his visit to UNCG. When asked by a UNCG community member at the author visit what consumers can do to affect positive change in the global garment industry, he replied, “The real question is, ‘how can we give workers a voice?’”

Kelsey stressed that “so many stories out there go untold” in his address to students and university administrators at the Author Luncheon held in his honor. Among the audience were Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam Jr and Provost Dana Dunn, along with special guests Tom Cone (Principal Attorney, Ott, Con and Redpath, Attorneys at Law) and Eric Henry (President, T.S. Designs).

As part of the luncheon, Tom Cone spoke briefly about how his family founded the Cone Mills in 1895, utilizing Greensboro’s proximity to hydroelectric power, plentiful labor force and reliable rail service to transform the Triad into one of the world’s largest textile centers of the 20th century. He stressed the importance of business giving back to the community, a lesson learned from his philanthropic forebears.

Eric Henry, founder and president of local “dirt-to-shirt” t-shirt company T.S. Designs, also shared his journey inspired by the same question Kelsey asked: where are my clothes made? As a response to the relocation of textile manufacturing overseas, he built a
company which sources all of its cotton, fabric and manufacturing within 600 miles of Burlington, NC, ultimately impacting 500 jobs. He encouraged students to think big, reminding them that “change starts with us.”

During his visit, Kelsey also talked about how getting out of his comfort zone led him to powerful experiences. When asked, “Did you ever encounter any cultural issues?” he laughed and replied, “Always!” But, he added, “You don’t have to travel to Bangladesh to get out of your comfort zone,” encouraging students to visit places and interact with people that they might not normally visit and interact with, and to listen to their stories.

KFYCR programming continues with two additional Where Am I Wearing-themed events later this semester. The first is a screening of the movie True Cost on October 26, 2015, sponsored by CAP and KFYCR. This documentary explores the “true cost” of the global fashion supply chain, particularly in relation to the new trend toward high quality clothes at historically low prices.

Building upon the themes of Where Am I Wearing? and Kelsey’s visit to UNCG, Global Engagement, in partnership with Lloyd International Honors College, will host the Keker First Year Common Read Capstone Conference on November 13-14, 2015.

The KFYCR Capstone Conference will gather approximately 75-100 first-year students at Revolution Mill, a former textile factory-turned-event space. Day One of the conference will feature a World Café, panel on engaging public history and keynote presentation from members of the Cone Mills family, including Tom Cone.

Day Two will include a “global garment experience” with community partners such as Elsewhere Living Museum and T.S. Designs, concluding with a lunch and discussion at UNCG. A partnership with Lloyd International Honors College, the event is free to students and will serve as the culminating experience for Where Am I Wearing? Programming.

To learn more about the Keker First Year Common Read program, visit [http://yourfirstyear.uncg.edu/the-first-year-common-read/about-kekercommonread/](http://yourfirstyear.uncg.edu/the-first-year-common-read/about-kekercommonread/).

To sign up for the Keker First Year Common Read Capstone Conference or to learn more about Global Engagement, visit [http://globalqep.uncg.edu/](http://globalqep.uncg.edu/).

Sam Parker Expands International Opportunities for Deaf Studies Students and Professional Interpreters in Siena, Italy

From June 23-July 11, 2015, Sam Parker (Clinical Professor and Coordinator, Professions in Deafness Program, UNCG) participated in a three-week teaching and learning exchange with the Siena School of Liberal Studies in Siena Italy. In addition to a tuition waiver granted by the Siena School, the exchange was funded by a Kohler Grant from the International Programs Center (IPC).

Mr. Parker accepted an invitation from Dr. Miriam Grottanelli de Santi (Director, Deaf Studies Program, Siena School of Liberal Studies) to travel to Italy, where he taught a three-day immersive class in Beginner American Sign Language (ASL) to deaf Italians and Italian Sign Language interpreters. He also taught an innovative two-day professional development seminar for Italian Sign Language interpreters.

Faculty Features
Language interpreters, entitled How to Eliminate Fear of Voicing. Mr. Parker developed the course based on his theatrical training, utilizing renowned voice teacher Kristin Linklater’s approach to Freeing the Natural Voice. Topics covered in the seminar include lowering inhibitions, controlling nerves and improving voice sound, quality and projection while interpreting.

As Mr. Parker explains, “When learners experience performance anxiety while interpreting, they form tensions in the body and the voice. Those tensions prohibit the rapid processing of information, and ultimately cause miscues in their interpretations. When learners are instructed to release tensions, through a guided Linklater process while interpreting ASL-to-English, miscues tend to be fewer and processing speed increases.”

According to Mr. Parker, this was the first time the Siena School had brought in an interpreter to teach a course; typically, the school’s Deaf Studies course offerings focus on language and culture. The seminar was very well attended by professional Italian interpreters from around the country, as well as prominent members of ANIOS, the Association of Italian Sign Language Interpreters.

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response from the professional interpreters who attended, Mr. Parker and Dr. Grottanelli de Santi are currently discussing the possibility of his return to Siena in order to offer another interpreting seminar next summer.

As part of his agreement with the Siena School, Mr. Parker also participated in two-weeks (30 hours) of Italian Sign Language and Italian Deaf Culture courses during his time in Siena. These courses were geared toward practicing professionals in the field.

For Mr. Parker, learning Italian Sign Language has had a huge impact on his teaching. As the son of two deaf parents, he never had the experience of learning ASL in a classroom setting. “Having to struggle through learning Italian Sign Language has really helped me to understand what my students go through. Being able to draw from that experience has definitely informed my teaching style.”

In addition to his personal teaching and learning experiences through the Siena School, Mr. Parker is also working closely with Dr. Grottanelli de Santi to expand exchange opportunities for Deaf Studies students at both institutions.

The existing arrangement between the two schools began as a collaboration between Dr. Joseph Hill (former Assistant Professor of Linguistics and ASL Instructor, UNCG) and Dr. Grottanelli de Santi through his work there as a summer instructor as part of a Fulbright Scholarship. He and Dr. Grottanelli de Santi created the opportunity for UNCG Professions in Deafness students to do an intensive three-week summer study abroad at the Siena School. The current 60-hour program includes courses in spoke Italian, signed Italian and Italian Deaf culture.

Mr. Parker’s efforts are helping to move UNCG toward a true exchange with the Siena School, offering students from both schools the opportunity to participate in a semester-long study abroad. His long-term vision for the partnership also includes additional faculty exchanges on both sides.

Mr. Parker has seen a lot of interest and excitement from his students around the program. On October 1, 2015, four Professions in Deafness students, who attended the Siena School’s Deaf Studies program last summer, presented their experiences to a group of around 40 interested students within the major.

Describing the incredible learning potential for students, Mr. Parker said, “Initially I wondered how learning Italian Sign Language would benefit my students. What I have come to understand is that, rather than being about language, it’s really about the effort and experience of communication, which allows them to apply more advanced language skills. It’s through the struggle that they learn and grow.”

Want to learn more about faculty funding?

A portion of the Kohler Fund, established in 1991 with a bequest from the estate of Phyllis Penn Kohler, class of 1930, is dedicated to supporting faculty internationalization efforts in six areas (research, teaching, internationalizing the curriculum, student programs, special projects, and institutional linkages). The upcoming deadlines for the 2015-16 academic year are September 18, October 23, January 15 and March 18. To apply for Kohler Award funding http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/faculty.html

Faculty may download a Global Engagement Course Development Award application from http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/qepcdapplication.docx.
During the week of September 13-27, 2015, a group of 14 educators from Guangdong Ocean University (GOU), located in the Guangdong Province of China, visited UNCG as part of a faculty development program.

The visit was designed to introduce the Chinese educators to pedagogies and educational methodologies employed at UNCG. GOU, which specializes in oceanography and maritime sciences, has traditionally used a lecture-based model in its course design. The institution is interested in diversifying and expanding its teaching methods to encourage more student involvement.

The visiting group from GOU included Li Juanfang (Associate Professor, Teacher Education Development Center), Qiao Yuxiang (Assistant Research Fellow, Higher Education Research Office), Li Guangli (Professor, Fisheries College), Dong Xiaohui (Professor, Fisheries College), Liang Haiying (Professor, Fisheries College), Liu Li (Professor, Fisheries College), Ma Yi (Professor, Agriculture College), Yin Fuquan (Associate Professor, Agriculture College), Liu Yuelian (Associate Professor, Agriculture College), Xu Jinqiang (Associate Professor, College of Information), He Lanzhen (Associate Professor, College of Science), Xiong Zhengye (Associate Professor, College of Science), Cai Danhong (Teacher, College of Foreign Languages) and Fan Lingli (Associate Professor, College of Oceanography and Meteorology).

While at UNCG, the group attended presentations and participated in discussions with UNCG faculty around pedagogy and the realities of higher education in the United States. Time spent in the School of Education allowed participants to explore the services and programs provided through the Teaching Resources Center and explore the innovative Student Education Learning Factory (SELF) Design Studio.

Class observations, both within the School of Education and in other disciplines, was an important component of the visit. Having the opportunity to interact with students in the classes they observed made the experience particularly rich for both the students and the Chinese educators. When the group visited Dr. Pauli Wai Tashima’s (Assistant Professor of Chinese, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures) third-year Chinese language course, students were excited to have the opportunity to practice their language skills and participate in cultural exchange with Chinese natives.

In the International Programs Center (IPC), the group had the opportunity to hear from a panel of students. Panel participants Mengfei Xu, a UNCG Chinese international degree-seeking student, Yue Ma, a Chinese international exchange student, and Jordan Griffin, a UNCG student who participated in a study abroad in China, shared their perspectives with the visitors.

The group’s visit to IPC also included a presentation on the English as a Second Language (ESL) program offered through the INTERLINK Language Center by Patrick Lilja (Director, INTERLINK), and the opportunity to talk with ESL teachers and observe classes.

While higher education was the primary focus of the visit, the group rounded out their time in Greensboro with visits to Greensboro Day School, a private K-12 school and Grimsley, a public high school.

A second group of delegates from GOU visited UNCG from October 6-8, 2015 to meet with Dr. Peter Alexander (Dean, School of Music, Theatre and Dance), Dr. Kelley Burke (Associate Dean, School of Music, Theatre and Dance) and a group of professors from the School of Music, Theatre & Dance to discuss exchange opportunities for Music Education students. UNCG looks forward to celebrating GOU’s 60th anniversary.

To learn more about Study Abroad and Exchange partnership opportunities, contact Denise Bellamy (Director, Study Abroad and Exchange) at 336-334-5404. To learn more about applying for Kohler faculty funding please visit http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/faculty.html
UNCG Community Explores Asia without Leaving Greensboro at Annual Asian Autumn Festival

On Saturday, October 3, 2015, UNCG hosted the annual Asian Autumn Festival in the Elliott University Center (EUC) on campus. The festival celebrated Asian cultural heritage in Greensboro, North Carolina. The festival provided UNCG and the wider community a chance to experience food, dance and customs from East to Southeast Asia without leaving their own backyards.

The yearly event was a collaboration between many departments and organizations across the university, including the International and Global Studies Program, the Chinese Culture and Language Association (CCLA), New Mind Education, the Japanese Club (J-Club), the Korean Student Association, UNCG Thai Students, the International Students Association (ISA), the Chinese Student Association and the Asian Student Association. Student organizations – made up of Asian natives, as well as students who have studied abroad, visited or are interested in the region – were well represented at the festival.

The diversity of Asian cultures was showcased through games, clothing, art and food. At one booth, Sara Obimah, a UNCG freshman, demonstrated how to play gonggi, a popular South Korean children’s game, with interested visitors. Fascinated by South Korean culture, Sara hopes to study abroad there during her sophomore year. She was thrilled to use the festival as an opportunity to practice her Korean language skills, explaining, “I’m teaching myself Korean so that I will be able to talk to people by the time I get there.”

At New Mind Education’s booth, visitors sought to recreate pottery designs in the traditional style of the Ming Dynasty on paper plates, while nearby, visitors were encouraged to try on traditional hanboks – colorful South Korean dresses worn by women during formal events or celebrations – and take pictures.

Festival attendees also had plenty of opportunities to sample Asia’s edible offerings, served up by the various student associations, including dango – a sweet and savory Japanese dumpling, seaweed crisps, fruiterly – a sweet lychee jelly snack, Chinese moon cakes, typically eaten during mid-autumn festivals, and mochi – a type of sweet Japanese rice cake.

A well-rounded performance schedule allowed festival attendees the chance to view traditional music, dance and martial arts performances from the different countries,
including an erhu instrumental performance by Zengyan Wu, oboe/violin duet by Madison DelRusso and Dixie Ortiz (Japanese Studies), Chinese folk dances by the Greensboro Chinese Association and Fu Yiling (Visiting Scholar in the Department of Dance, Guangxi University), musical rendition of “Jasmine Flowers” by Kenissa Griffin (CCLA), Taekwondo demonstration by Yoo Brothers Martial Arts, vocal performance by Mary Winford (CCLA), Chinese dance performance by Briana Hall, Wai Oo, Kenissa Griffin (Chinese Studies) and Robert Moody (Chinese Studies), dance by Antoinette Huey, presentation on the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) by Wesley Bradshaw, traditional Korean drum line by the Korean Student Association drum team, Chinese musical performance by Katherine Walls (Chinese Studies), and show of Japanese fashion and costumes, soba eating contest and Japanese Quiz Bowl (J-Club).

Dr. Roberto Campo (Professor of French, Director of International and Global Studies) served as the key organizer of the event. Enthusiastic support and participation from UNCG faculty, staff, and students, as well as members of Greensboro’s many vibrant Asian communities helped to make the Asian Autumn Festival possible.

Peter Dola, (Lecturer in French, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures) – an ardent supporter of the festival since its inception – commented between greeting visitors, “I think it’s a wonderful opportunity for students to explore different cultures, because it can change their world view.”

(Imon Bannout, contributing writer)

**UNCG Students Present Ideas to a Global Audience at the 2015 International Conference of Undergraduate Research**

On September 28-30, 2015, UNCG served as a host site for the third annual International Conference of Undergraduate Research (ICUR). ICUR began as a grassroots collaboration between Monash University (Australia) and The University of Warwick (United Kingdom). The Monash-Warwick Alliance was designed with the goal of internationalizing the student experience and enhancing students’ intercultural communication skills in a way that is not prohibitively expensive for students. ICUR takes a student-centered approach, with students acting as directors, hosts and presenters.

The multidisciplinary conference connects students from universities across five continents, including Monash University (with participating campuses in Australia, Malaysia and South Africa), The University of Warwick, The University of Washington, The University of Tennessee, Baruch College (USA), City University of New York, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), Singapore Management University, Kyushu University (Japan) and The University of Western Australia.

Dr. Lee Phillips (Director, Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creativity Office) and Dr. Jan Rychtar (Associate Professor, Mathematics and Statistics Department) served as the catalysts for UNCG’s involvement with ICUR. As the Council of Undergraduate Research’s (CUR) Geosciences Chair and Mathematics and Computer Sciences Chair respectively, Dr. Phillips and Dr. Rychtar have a strong interest in expanding research opportunities for undergraduate students. Internationalization is also an important focus for CUR. ICUR naturally aligned well with both of these objectives.

Although a group from UNCG attended the 2014 ICUR, this was the first year that UNCG students participated as presenters. The selection process for student presenters was rigorous, including multiple levels of approval. “UNCG student participants were initially solicited by Dr. Phillips and myself. We contacted students and faculty mentors and encouraged them to submit abstracts. All of the abstracts solicited were of high quality. All were selected at the UNCG level, and then approved at the ICUR level. In theory, the abstracts could have been rejected at any of these levels,” explained Dr. Rychtar.

The list of 2015 UNCG student presenters included Amanda Baeten (Psychology), Daniel Foil (Chemistry/Biochemistry), Ivanti Galloway (Mathematics and Statistics), Aaleah Lancaster (Mathematics and Statistics), Rhoni Moffit (Biology), Kee’Aera Hood (Biology), Jay Saini (Mathematics and Statistics), Kristen Schleich (Kinesiology), Qaleelah Smith (Biology), David Perez-Suarez (Mathematics and Statistics) and Babak Yousefi (Biology). Ivanti Galloway, Jay Saini and Runnan Zhang (Business) served as student directors for UNCG.

Senior Ivanti Galloway represented UNCG’s Mathematics and Statistics Department on September 30 during the 10:30-12 p.m. session. Ivanti’s research centered on answering one key question: where does cooperation come from? Through her groundbreaking research, Ivanti was able to demonstrate that mutations...
can allow cooperative and selfish animal populations to coexist, a phenomenon previously thought not to be possible. Although this was not Ivanti’s first time presenting this research, it was her first time presenting individually and on camera.

“I have presented this project six times in the past, but this was my first time presenting without my research partner. I was nervous about presenting on my own, and pretty intimidated about being on camera. Jan [Rychtar] encouraged me to do it, and I’m so glad that I did. When else will I get to present my ideas to an international audience and hear other students’ perspectives from around the world?” said Ivanti.

The three-day conference was divided into one hour and 30 minute sessions, each featuring four presentations. The presenters, as well as groups of attendees from the various universities, connected to the sessions via video conferencing equipment. Each speaker had 15 minutes to present. The last 30 minutes of each session was reserved for a question and answer period.

Presenters and attendees from UNCG gathered in the university’s TeleLearning Center (Stone Building, room 186). The TeleLearning Center, managed by Lane Ridenhour (Program Coordinator and Video Manager, UNCG TeleLearning and Teleconference Center), is equipped with videoconferencing technology to support virtual learning. Dr. Rychtar stressed that “the tremendous effort and great work” of Mr. Ridenhour was instrumental in making participation in the conference possible for UNCG students.

To learn more about undergraduate research opportunities with the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creativity Office (URSCO), visit http://ursco.uncg.edu/.

International Students

From Slovakia to the Statue of Liberty: One Student’s Story of His Study Abroad

Experience at UNCG

When asked what made him choose UNCG as his study abroad destination, Juraj Jarabek said that UNCG was “the most interesting” of the options offered by his home University of Tartu in Estonia. The Software Engineering master’s student traveled to the U.S. to take courses in the Department of Computer Science at UNCG during Fall 2015.

Originally from Slovakia, Juraj found that the part of his experience that was most different from his home country was the people. “People are more outgoing in comparison with Europe.” He was also surprised by the “hospitality of the south” that North Carolina is so famous for, and by the diversity which sets UNCG apart from other universities. The U.S. tradition of small talk also struck Juraj as being very different from his experience in Slovakia: “We don’t really say ‘how are you’ unless we really want to know about that person’s feelings.”

Settling in at UNCG, Juraj found himself at home in the gym, visiting the UNCG recreation center an average of four times per week and serves as a gym coach for fellow students. He has adjusted to the campus, which he describes as a “small town inside the city,” as well as the coursework, which he finds more abundant but less challenging overall than in his native Slovakia.

Juraj has made it a priority to see as much of the U.S. as possible during his stay. He has already visited Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and New York City, and plans to see Miami, Florida, Las Vegas, Nevada and California before he returns home. New York was his favorite place to visit, “since I saw all the important things like [the] Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, top of One World Trade Center, Central Park, Wall Street [and the] Empire State Building.”

Following graduation, Juraj hopes his study abroad experience will improve his English language skills and add value to his resume. He doesn’t know exactly where he’ll end up, but he would consider moving to the U.S. although he would “miss many European things like food, for example.”

To those looking to study abroad themselves, he says, “Exchange is the very best thing you can do in your life, so stop thinking about it and just do it!”

To learn more about Study Abroad opportunities at UNCG, please call IPC at 336-334-5404 or visit Foust 207 to schedule your Study Abroad “Options” appointment or at http://www.uncg.edu/ipg.
Global Engagement Faculty Learning Group Holds First Meetings of the Semester

On September 20, 2015, the Global Engagement Faculty Learning Group, sponsored by the University Teaching and Learning Commons and Global Engagement, held its first meeting of Fall 2015.

Led by 2015-16 Global Engagement Faculty Fellow Dr. Melody Zoch (Assistant Professor, Literacy Education, Teacher Education and Higher Education), the group will explore the Global Engagement QEP goals and support faculty in developing and revising courses to address global learning and increase students’ intercultural competency.

The first meeting’s objective was to connect faculty from across UNCG interested in participating, learning more about the group and give faculty an opportunity to provide feedback on subsequent meetings.

Dr. Zoch has invited past recipients of Global Engagement Course Development Awards and Office of Leadership and Service-Learning (OLSL) International and Global Service-Learning Course Development Awards to share their experiences on how they revised or created new courses.

During the group’s second meeting on October 27, 2015, Professor Denise Gabriel (Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre) shared her experience developing community partnerships in Wales in preparation for a faculty-led study abroad course she will teach in Summer 2016. Her exploratory trip this past summer was funded by an International Service-Learning Course Development Award.

The Global Engagement Faculty Learning Group will meet November 17, 4:00-5:00 pm; January 19, 3:00-4:00 pm; February 23, 3:00-4:00 pm; March 22, 3:00-4:00 pm; and April 26, 3:00-4:00pm.

For more information on Global Engagement, including funding and ICC workshops, please visit http://globalqep.uncg.edu or email questions to globalqep@uncg.edu. Faculty may download a Global Engagement Course Development Award application from http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/qepcdapplication.docx.

To learn more about the Global Engagement Faculty Learning Group, please contact Dr. Melody Zoch at mzoch@uncg.edu.
INTERLINK/New Mind

INTERLINK: Thursday Talks and Conversation Partners

On Thursday afternoons, INTERLINK and UNCG students gather to enjoy activities and games at “Thursday Talk”. Held weekly, this intercultural exchange gives INTERLINK students the opportunity to work on their communication skills in a fun, non-threatening environment. Current INTERLINK student, Gabriella Sigalotti, has attended all of the Thursday Talk events offered this semester. She looks forward to the event each week and believes it to be a good venue to practice her English.

At Thursday Talk on September 24, 2015, students played games to hone their English language skills. “Hot Seat” tested students’ general knowledge, and “Table Slaps” tested students’ coordination. Rachel Reid, a UNCG student and Conversation Partner, exclaimed during one of the games, “My face hurts so much from just laughing!” Students enjoy the opportunity to socialize while learning about different cultures.

Many of the UNCG and INTERLINK students who attend the Thursday Talk events are also part of INTERLINK’s Conversation Partner Program. Through this program, international and domestic students are paired up and commit to meet at least one hour per week to practice their English conversation skills. Thursday Talk provides an additional venue for Conversation Partners to connect with one another, as well as meet other students participating in the program. Guy Murray, a UNCG student, was assigned to partner with one INTERLINK student, but has met many others and gained even more friendships through the Conversation Partner Program.

New Mind Education welcomes New Students from China with Hiking, Pool Party, Tea Social

In September 2015, New Mind Education held its first Student Life Event of the semester, an International Tea Social. Students gathered in Phillips/Hawkins Residence Hall, known as I-House due to its high population of international students, to get involved with the international campus community and interact with fellow UNCG students.

Sixty-five people attended the Tea Social, enjoying tea and cuisine from 11 different countries. New Mind students were able to meet and socialize with American and other international students. After sampling delicacies from around the world, participants formed teams and competed in a trivia battle featuring facts from each of the countries represented at the Tea Social. This event helped to develop international friendships among New Mind students and helped students meet one of the New Mind Student Life program objectives: fostering global leadership.

On October 3, 2015, UNCG hosted its seventh annual Asian Autumn Festival in the Elliott University Center on UNCG’s campus (see UNCG Community Explores Asia without Leaving Greensboro at Annual Asian Autumn Festival). Originally created to observe the Asian Moon Festival, the Asian Autumn Festival celebrates the rich diversity of Asian cultures. The New Mind Education table featured information on China’s Forbidden City, and offered visitors a chance to wear authentic Chinese clothing, pose for a photo or decorate a plate in the style of the Ming Dynasty.
This fall, UNCG hosted its first ever Native American Student Visitation Day to introduce UNCG campus resources to interested Native high school students across the state. Marie Henry (Assistant Director, Study Abroad and Exchange) gave the first campus partners presentation by introducing international opportunities at UNCG and abroad.

In the audience were new high school students, recent UNCG applicants, parents of students and current UNCG members of the Native American Student Association (NASA) student group. The presentation covered exchange programs, faculty-led programs, summer options and international student groups on campus. Native American Student Visitation Day was orchestrated and sponsored by NASA.

Apart from Vietnam, Greensboro is the largest Montagnard community in the world, with only a few hundred Montagnards living in the United States outside of North Carolina. Derived from a French term meaning “mountain people,” the Montagnard community originates from the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

Montagnard refugees often face the same obstacles to receiving healthcare as many other immigrant and refugee groups, including transportation problems, language barriers and a lack of knowledge about how to access the healthcare system. These are some of the issues that the Montagnard Health Disparities Research Network (MHDRN) seeks to address.

The MHDRN was created in 2011 by UNCG Center for New North Carolinians (CNNC) research fellows from UNCG, NCAT, Guilford College and Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. Its purpose is to serve as a home base for community outreach, engagement and research work with this Southeast Asian community unique to the Piedmont.

The Montagnard Hypertension Research Project is led by Dr. Sudha Shreeniwas (Associate Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Studies), Dr. Sharon Morrison (Associate Professor, Department of Public Health Education) and Dr. Jigna Dharod (Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition). Core community collaborators and research team members are Montagnard students drawn from UNCG’s Public Health Education, Nutrition and Social Work programs and Guilford College’s Bonner Center for Community Service and Learning. “Our goal is to understand Montagnard health in the context of the family,” said Dr. Shreeniwas.
Over time the student team has grown to include astonishing diversity, a true multicultural group of some 40 college students, graduate students and high school students, representing the five major Montagnard tribes, other refugee and immigrant groups, first generation college students and international students. Among the students’ countries of birth and their parents’ countries of origin are Sikkim (India), Ghana, Pakistan, China, Central Highlands (Vietnam), Angola, Nigeria, South Africa, Somalia, Niger, Kyrgyzstan, Bosnia, Mexico and Panama.

"I'm thrilled to see students from so many cultures and communities come together to assist us," said Andrew Young, (Volunteer Training Coordinator at the Bonner Center, Guilford College and Research Fellow, CNNC). "Hypertension is local-to-global issue that requires an international team with the cultural skills and sensitivity to address it."

The MHDRN also participates in community-wide events to raise awareness and provide services. As part of the National Folk Festival, a free three-day event celebrating culture that gathered over 102,000 visitors in downtown Greensboro, the Montagnard community presented "Meet the Montagnards." A program of arts, culture and music held at the Greensboro Historical Museum on September 12, 2015, the event attracted 1,500 visitors. As a part of the Montagnard Hypertension Research Project’s emphasis on community engagement, education and sharing, the research team set up information posters and blood pressure machines and took readings.

"We have everyone and everything on our team!" said Dr. Morrison. "This is a truly community-based, intense project that involves the community, empowers the community and erases boundaries among campuses. We’re deeply grateful to the Montagnard community, the many leaders who’ve helped us, the families that have welcomed us to their homes and the Montagnard college and high school students who acted as indispensable connectors to their churches and neighborhoods."

**UNCG and Beyond**

**University News**

“Learn conversational Spanish” *Campus Weekly* [http://ure.uncg.edu/prod/cweekly/2015/10/21/learn-conversational-spanish/](http://ure.uncg.edu/prod/cweekly/2015/10/21/learn-conversational-spanish/)

“Memory: Disputed Territory” *Campus Weekly* [http://ure.uncg.edu/prod/cweekly/2015/10/20/memory-disputed-territory/](http://ure.uncg.edu/prod/cweekly/2015/10/20/memory-disputed-territory/)


“People: Dr. Susanne Rinner” *Campus Weekly* [https://ure.uncg.edu/prod/cweekly/2015/09/01/dr-susanne-rinner/](https://ure.uncg.edu/prod/cweekly/2015/09/01/dr-susanne-rinner/)

“World-class violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg to perform at UNCG’s Aycock Auditorium” *UNCG Now* [http://ure.uncg.edu/prod/cweekly/2015/10/20/nadja-salerno-sonnenberg/](http://ure.uncg.edu/prod/cweekly/2015/10/20/nadja-salerno-sonnenberg/)

**News from Our Partners**

“Studying abroad: no one warns you about the tears!” The *Globe* [http://globe.international.mq.edu.au/r/2015/09/studying-abroad-no-one-warns-tears/#.VjKH_7erSUk](http://globe.international.mq.edu.au/r/2015/09/studying-abroad-no-one-warns-tears/#.VjKH_7erSUk)

“Scholarship student’s fight against crime” The *Globe* [http://globe.international.mq.edu.au/r/2015/09/scholarship-students-fight-crime/#.VjKIALerSUk](http://globe.international.mq.edu.au/r/2015/09/scholarship-students-fight-crime/#.VjKIALerSUk)

**State & National News**

“International Education Week” *Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs* [http://eca.state.gov/programs-initiatives/international-education-week](http://eca.state.gov/programs-initiatives/international-education-week)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue, November 3</td>
<td>SAE Logistics Workshop I (EUC Alexander, 3:30-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, November 4</td>
<td>SAE Logistics Workshop II (EUC Alexander, 3:30-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, November 5</td>
<td>BOT Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, November 5</td>
<td>ISSS Committee Meeting (Foust 206, 2:00-3:30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, November 5</td>
<td>SAE Committee Meeting (Foust 206, 3:30-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, November 6</td>
<td>Discretionary Funds Committee Meeting (Foust 206, 3:30-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, November 2</td>
<td>Advisory Committee Memo Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, November 10</td>
<td>SAE Financial Workshop I (EUC Alexander, 3:30-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, November 10</td>
<td>Brown Bag Lunch and Learn: Understanding Contemporary Armed Conflict Facilitated by Fulbright Scholar, Yuriy Loboda (Faculty Center, 12:00-1:30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, November 11</td>
<td>SAE Financial Workshop II (EUC Kirkland, 3:30-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, November 11</td>
<td>Veterans Day (University &amp; Offices Open – Business As Usual)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, November 13</td>
<td>Travel Grant roster for Spring 2015 outgoing exchange recipients due to Financial Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, November 13</td>
<td>International Scholarship Spring 2015 recipient memos due to Financial Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri-Sat, November 13-14</td>
<td>Keker First Year Common Read Capstone Conference (Revolution Mill and UNCG, 1:00-9:00pm Friday and 9:00-1:30pm Saturday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, November 14</td>
<td>African Student Union “Africa Night” (TBC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon-Fri, November 16-20</td>
<td>International Education Week (IEW) 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, November 16</td>
<td>ISSS CPT Workshop – IEW 2015 (EUC Sharpe, 3:30-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue-Thurs, November 17-19</td>
<td>IEW 2015 – Study Abroad Photo Contest, ISA Buttons Distribution, GLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue-Thurs, November 17-19</td>
<td>Info Booth, &amp; Global Village Coasters Distribution (EUC Commons, 8:00am-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue-Fri, November 17-20</td>
<td>IEW 2015 – Prep room (EUC Phillips, 7:30am-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue-Wed, November 17-18</td>
<td>SAE Workshops (School of Education Building SOE 120, 3:30-5:30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, November 17</td>
<td>IPC-HR ESP Workshop “Intercultural Sensitivity” (Foust 206, 2:00-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, November 18</td>
<td>GLP Info Session – Fall 2015 (Foust 206/Mclver 255, 5:30-6:30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, November 18</td>
<td>IEW 2015 Study Abroad Information Session (EUC Joyner, 1:00-2:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, November 18</td>
<td>ISSS OPT Workshop – IEW 2015 (EUC Sharpe, 3:30-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, November 18</td>
<td>IPC-Bryan School of Business’ “Study Abroad Fair” (Bryan 225, 10:00am-2:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, November 18</td>
<td>IEW 2015 IPC-Graduate School’s Seminar on International Engagement Abroad (Faculty Center, 5:30-7:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, November 18</td>
<td>Study Abroad Expo IEW 2015 (EUC Pre-Function Auditorium, 11:00am-2:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, November 18</td>
<td>SAE Faculty-Led Program Director’s Development Meeting IEW 2015 (EUC Azalea, 2:30-4:30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, November 19</td>
<td>Study Abroad Alumni Panel (Bryan 301N, 5:00-6:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, November 19</td>
<td>ISSS Visas After Graduation Workshop for F1 Students (Foust 206, 3:00-5:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, November 19</td>
<td>GLP Elective Colloquium IEW 2015: “Reflective Writing” (Dr. Nell Pynes) (Foust 206, 5:00-7:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, November 20</td>
<td>ISSS Visas After Graduation Consultation (Foust 208, All day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, November 20</td>
<td>IPC Advisory Committee II Fall 2015 (EUC Claxton, 12:00-1:45pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, November 20</td>
<td>Special Friday Fest and IEW 2015 Closing Ceremony &amp; Reception (EUC Cone Ballroom C, 2:00-4:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed-Sat, November 18-21</td>
<td>CIEE Annual Conference 2015 (Baltimore, MD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, November 24</td>
<td>New Mind Thanksgiving Event (Alumni House, 7:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed-Sun, November 25-29</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday (Classes dismissed but Offices are open on 11/25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs- Fri, November 26-27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday (Offices Closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, November 30</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes for Fall 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, November 30</td>
<td>Deadline to disperse I-20s for Spring 2015 intake</td>
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