The day began early with student volunteers arriving at the Fountain Plaza to help unload the supplies. Not long afterwards, the tents of the ‘Global Village’ began springing up. As the country booth representatives arrived with decorations and educational information to share with visitors, one might have mistaken these booths for small embassies with only the friendliest of ambassadors. Country flags flapped in the wind, world music filled the air, and the aromas of various ethnic foods made mouths water.

At 11:45 am, a faint drumming could be heard far in the distance, as a sparkling line of marching musicians bobbed up over the hill. UNCG’s own Spartan Force Marching Band, brought more than forty-five of its members to the front of the Atrium and started the day with a bang. Nearly every fifteen minutes afterwards, a different entertainer was on the stage with presentations ranging from Sudanese Cane Dancers to physics defying Martial Artists. An audience favorite were the Indian Dancers who energized the crowd with the sounds of Punjabi. Towards the end of the day we also had surprise performances including Turkish Belly Dance and African Drumming.

In all, the I-Fest was an enormous success. More than 200 UNCG students including nine student organizations participated and over 3000 community members attended. This year we also had additional countries represented and included two new vendors. We look forward to next year’s I-Fest, which will be held on April 22.
From Mexico to Poland: A Student’s Transcontinental Adventures

By UNCG Study Abroad student, Michael Shannon

Spending a semester abroad in Monterrey, México is one of the greatest experiences anyone can have, and being able to follow it up with a semester in Wroclaw, Poland is something I never could have dreamed would turn out this well! Last semester I found myself in the wonderfully warm desert, a place I had never been to before. Sure it is warm in North Carolina, but stepping off the plane on my first day and breathing in the 107 degree heat was an experience all its own and one I can honestly say I am missing. Especially as I find myself, this semester, with a major change of scenery - the icy cold.

During fall semester, I spent Mexican Independence Day in warm Guanajuato with a group of exchange students. It was the most wonderful celebration I have ever had: from the fireworks and the children spraying shaving cream everywhere to dancing right alongside of a mariachi band, as we danced through the streets with our GIANT sombreros. Every moment was something exciting. I toured old medieval buildings from the Spanish Conquest, and even stood on top of the statue of Pipila. (Which was promptly followed by stern looks from the guards). The loads of tacos, screaming the “Grito”, and dancing the night away no matter where we found ourselves, made for an experience that all of the exchange students were talking about for months to come. And one I will remember for the rest of my life.

This semester, however, I have experienced a different course of events. I have gone mountain climbing and hiking up mountains of snow. I even had a really interesting weekend on an international student trip I went on. We all went up to this mountain, which was a three and a half hour hike with all our stuff up to an alcove, where we hung out in a mountain cabin for a weekend. It was good times all around. We hiked up to the top of a real mountain, sled off the roof of our cabin (since the snow was so high it went past the roof in some spots). At night we’d spend time together in a main lobby room drinking warm beverages and talking and dancing till we all fell asleep. Everyday there was an adventure: from the snow deeper than me to the avalanches we could see down the mountain.

Overall, I have had a lot of adventures between México and here in Poland. I have been to the typical desert regions of México with cacti to the white, sand-filled beaches with the bluest of water; I have seen Poland covered with snow, and in the warmer 50 degree weather, Prague and even Paris. And now that the weather is warming up, I am hoping there will be many more adventures to come.

INTERLINK Students Engage in Community Service

Submitted by David Parsons, Director INTERLINK Language Center/UNCG

INTERLINK students combined learning about therapeutic use of animals with manual "volunteer" work at the Kopper Top Center farm near Julian, N.C. Students had an opportunity to see dozens of cats and dogs interacting harmoniously, along with horses, goats, ducks, chickens, etc., and to learn how the center works with individuals with and without disabilities. The Center is relocating, and INTERLINK students helped to move heavy lumber and fence sections, and clean up in preparation for its "re-opening".

INTERLINK students from left to right: Mehmet Donmez (Turkey); Theophile Tamini (Burkina Faso); Yen Han Chu (Taiwan); Sofiane Hamani (Niger)
Travel Grant Recipients for Study Abroad and Exchange Programs

IPC is pleased to announce that the following students on Study Abroad for Summer and Fall Term 2005 and Academic Year 2005-06, have received travel grants from the Center’s Endowments for International Programs: From the Elizabeth Yates King Fund: Laurence Bezy, Emily Coates, Oliver Johnson, Jenny Kimmel, Alexis Klein; From the Martha Crockett Lancaster Fund: Andrew Weisbecker; From the Evelyn Wilson Simpson Fund: Drury Fulcher, Joshua Lunsford; From the H. Michael Weaver Fund: Anne Bauso, Anjane Bell, Christopher Biggers, Amanda Black, Julia Bland, Candice Blount, Ryan Burns, Anthony Calandro, Charity Campbell, Katheryn Comfort, Erin Connarn, Erin Davis, Paula Delgado, Jessica Emerson, Ajaya Francis, Natalie Galtieri, Aubrey Girard, Caroline Gulick, Amy Helander, Rebekah Hickey, Elias Hickman, Kelly Idacavage, Sharon Kelly, Alison Kelkenberg, Kathleen Kerner, Stephanie Kline, Erin Leitherman, Debra Lyons, Brian Matthews, Megan McCung, Megan Miller, Nomalangaeliile Mpofu, Ekatherina Osman, Graham Pettigrew, Maggie Richardson, Sarah Santloci, Hilary Stewart, Lynnwood Titchener, Robert Upfield, Stephanie Utt; From the H. Michael Weaver/ Joseph Bryan Fund: Jasmeen Baidwan, Hanni Bissell, Kara Boothe, Lorie Brown, William Clarke, Joseph Frinzl, Seyed Ghiassi, Christopher Gormley, Adam Grant, Frank Griffin, David Johnson, Mary Ann Khamdy, Lanedra Lee, Gregory Levy, Scott Lisle, Brantley Malone, Heather Miller, Jorge Musalem, Julie Price, Shayna Wiggins, Juliet Williams, Elizabeth Winborne, Amanda Yates; From the Class of 1934 Fund: Anthony Bond, Matt Crumpler, Sarah Kimmel, Samantha Mahanay, Haley Shaw, Nicole Sousa-Rosa; From the H. Michael Weaver/ Friends of Romance Languages: Anjane Bell, Elizabeth Blalock, Cynthia Blanco, Lakisha Bowden, Mitchell Britt, Crystal Busick, Sean Cain, Michelle Comp, Adriane DeVine, Natasha Edwards, Leslie Ellis, Joshua Ellison, Carli Farrior, Natalie Galtieri, Anthony Gonzalez, India Green, Jennifer Groce, Ellen Hammond, Melissa Harney, Meredith Holt, Mandy Houck, Randy Hudson, Diane Hutchinson, Ashley Johnson, Megan Karbley, Ashley Keeseey, Melissa Kurland, Ziva Cullough, Nyia McGhee, Laura Nagy, Lawrence Rollman, Twyla Solomon, China Tickle, Julie Zollina; From the H. Michael Weaver/ Human Environmental Sciences Fund: Dawn Cornwell, Matthew Dennison, Catherine Doerfler, Annette Estrada, Emilie Hart, Seth Horton, Karin Lauff, Marcia Smith-Fischer, Chrysecolla Taico, Meaghan Van Veen.

ISA End of Year Picnic at Piney Lake

Chancellor Sullivan’s Bon Voyage Celebration

Chancellor Sullivan wishes Debra Lyons Bon Voyage

Spring 2005 graduates: Gwendolyn Lovejoy, Beril Gundogdu, Phillip Küpper, Markus Gnödl, and Marc-Stephane Racine
Congratulations to UNCG Faculty, Staff, and Students!

UNC Board of Governors Teaching Excellence Award for UNC Greensboro

Excerpted from official press release

Colleen Kriger (History) has been awarded the UNC Board of Governors Teaching Excellence Award for UNCG (one is awarded at each of the UNC universities). All winners will receive their awards—a bronze medallion and a generous cash prize—at a luncheon and ceremony in Chapel Hill on May 13.

At UNCG since 1993, Kriger has been active making African history better known on campus. To encourage students to visit Africa, she has worked closely with the IPC, chairing the African Programs Committee, and supporting the development of student exchanges with Africa. She has developed an African Film Series, a collection of films by African filmmakers that reflect their political concerns and expose students to Africa through African eyes. She participated in the creation of the African-American Studies major and has received a teaching award from the African Students Union for making their histories more visible and relevant and making them feel welcome on campus.

Kriger received her B.A. from the School of Fine and Performance Art at Portland State University, and her M.A. in African History and her Ph.D. in history from York University in Toronto.

Rotary Award

Tom Martinek, Jr. (IPC) will participate in a Rotary International Group Study Exchange Program to Germany from May 3 – June 3. The team, which consists of four team members and a team leader representing various professions, will travel to various cities throughout the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen, staying with host families along the way. Team members will visit Germans working in similar professions and will visit various institutions associated with education, healthcare, business, and social services. As part of the exchange, a German delegation visited North Carolina in April, participating in similar activities. The purpose of the exchange is to promote peace and goodwill and to strengthen the relationships between the participating Rotary Districts in North Carolina (7690) and Nordrhein-Westfalen (1810).

Fulbright Award

Bryan Baker, exchange student to Mannheim, Germany (2003-2004) and Vaxjö, Sweden (2005) has been awarded a Fulbright grant for the 2005-2006 academic year. As a Fulbright grantee in Germany, Bryan will teach American studies at a high school in Germany. In addition, his independent learning goals are to deepen his knowledge of European politics and to learn French.

Student Performances

Mark Mazengarb (New Zealand) plays for an appreciative crowd

Following a successful lecture recital, Luc Jackman (Canada) celebrates with his accompanist, Music faculty member, Andrew Willis
Recent Visitors

On Wednesday, April 13, UNCG’s International Studies Program, IPC and Department of Political Science hosted former Finnish Ambassador to the United Nations, Max Jakobson, who addressed an audience of faculty, staff and students on “The Future of the European Union.” Bonnie McElveen Hunter, past Ambassador to Finland, introduced Jakobson to the crowd.

Siberian author Yuri Rytkheu gave a presentation at UNCG on Tuesday, April 19, based on the translation of his novel, A Dream in Polar Fog. Mr. Rytkheu's visit was sponsored by IPC, Department of German Russian and Japanese, INS and Russian Studies.

Visiting International Scholars

UNCG is pleased to host research scholar, Maria Sandberg from Southern Denmark University, Odense during the months of April and May. The Nutrition Department will be hosting Ms. Sandberg during her visit at UNCG.

Recent Travelers

During the month of April, UNCG faculty members traveled all over the globe in pursuit of international perspectives in their various disciplines (destinations in parentheses): Roberto Campo, Romance Languages (United Kingdom); Christopher Hodgkins, English (United Kingdom); Derek Krueger, Religious Studies (Ireland); Christopher Ruhm, Economics (New Zealand); and Jose Villalba, Counseling (Canada).

Kohler Award Fund

We are pleased to announce that the following faculty members have been awarded Kohler grants in May: (destination in parentheses): Mary Harley, Romance Languages (Mexico); Maura K. Heyn, Classical Studies (France); Jie Hu, School of Nursing (China); Wendy Jones-Worden, Romance Languages (Mexico); Thomas Kwapiil, Psychology (Spain); Elizabeth Lacey, Biology (Sweden); Kaarin Michaelsen, History (United Kingdom); Christian Moraru, English (Germany); Jeffrey Soles, Classical Studies (Greece); and Andrew Willis, Music (China).

International Travel Fund

We are pleased to announce that the following faculty members have been awarded ITF grants in April: (destination in parentheses): Steve Haines, Music (Canada); and Christopher Ruhm, Economics (New Zealand). April: Kwasi Amoaka-Gyampah, Information Systems Office Management (Spain); Dennis Askek, Music (China); Edward Bach, Music (China); Michael Beiter, Business Administration (Germany); Gavin Douglas, Music (United Kingdom); Maria de las Bayonas, Romance Languages (Canada); Randy Kohlenberg, Music (China); Stuart Marcovitch, Psychology (Canada); Jack Masarie, Music (China); Robbie Smith, Music (Canada); Andrew Supple, Human Development & Family Studies (Mexico); Larry Taube, Information Systems Office Management (United Kingdom); and Brooks Whitehouse, Music (Japan).
Friday Fests

Eritrea and Somalia, April 1

Mexico, April 8

China, April 22

South Korea, April 29

A Note from Lyn

As another exciting year draws to an end, I’d like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your support and enthusiasm for our programs. We would not be able to boast of our successes without each of you. For those of you heading out into the world, our thoughts will be with you and for those returning to your home countries, we hope you will remember us and UNCG fondly. I wish you all safe travels throughout the summer and look forward to hearing of your escapades when the university reconvenes in the fall.

Thanks, Lyn

Newsworthy on the Web
http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/newsworthy.html

International Programs Center, UNCG
127 McIver Street, PO Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170
Phone: 336-334-5404 ~ Fax: 336-334-5406
Email: int_programs@uncg.edu

Newsworthy is edited by IPC Program Coordinator, Dorian Arnold.
Newsworthy is published monthly during the academic year. To submit an article for consideration, please email: int_programs@uncg.edu.