Everyone is welcome! Come friends, Come neighbors, Come young and old!! To UNCG’s 25th Annual International Festival. Meet people from around the world and learn about their society and culture at this FREE event. Held around the water fountain in front of the dining hall, you can taste the amazing variety of foods, watch and listen to the multicultural performances or come to look around and enjoy the day. Do not miss this great opportunity to discover how wonderful and diverse UNCG and Greensboro really are!

*PERFORMANCES

U.S.  UNCG Spartan Force Marching Band
      Magic Carpet Dancers - Global dances

Japan  Myobshinkan Aikido Dojo - Self-Defense Martial Arts Demonstration

China  Di Wang - Chinese Flute
      Greensboro Chinese Association - Folk dances, Martial arts demonstration

India  Phani Bhusana – Story Teller

Brazil  UNCG Brazilian Dance class - Prof. Eluza Santos - Some Samba!

Asia  Asian Students Association - Traditional Hmong Dance, Hypnotic Dance Group

Ireland  Pride of Carolina Cloggers - Clogging and Irish step dancing

Saudi Arabia  Saudi Dancers, Arda and Ymbawe

India & Pakistan  Nashaa Indian Dance Group - Bhangra Dance
      Andaaz – South Asian Student Association Fashion Show

Brazil  Caifazes Group - Capoeira Demonstration

Palestine  Folk Dance

Mexico  Mexican dancers - Ballet Folklorico Azteca

*Tentative- subject to change, check the website for updates

http://www.uncg.edu/student.groups/isa/ifest/index.htm
Music School In Europe

Over the spring break Dr. David Nelson led a group of 20 UNCG Music students to Germany and Austria. The group spent two days in Salzburg, and six in Vienna, concentrating on the important musical sites of those cities. Highlights of the trip included Mozart's Birth House in Salzburg and concerts and performances in Vienna’s Musikverein concert hall and Volksoper.

The trip also provided Dr. Nelson, through sponsorship of the US Embassy, the opportunity to give a presentation on his new book, *Vienna for the Music Lover*. The presentation was held in the building where Mozart lived in Vienna and was well attended with standing room only.

Recent UNCG Travelers

The following UNCG faculty members traveled all over the globe in pursuit of international perspectives in their various disciplines during the month of March: Keith Cushman, English (France); Christopher Hogkins, English (United Kingdom); and Svi Shapiro, Educational Leadership & Cultural Foundations (United Kingdom).

Letters From Abroad — Turkey

When I am asked to write about my experiences here in Turkey, I never know where to begin. Do you want to hear about how easy my English literature classes are? About how we ride the bus and ferry to get around? About how people in Istanbul are different from home? Do you care that when I saw Hagia Sophia I cried because it was so beautiful? Do you care for my newfound appreciation for America and how I've met influential Turkish Lawyers who have shared with me the effects America has on the world? Do you care that I made Turkish friends, and that they have us over for dinner and are teaching me how to cook? And what about my international friends, whom I'm going to miss so much that we are already planning trips to visit each other? Or do you want to know that it's difficult to be without anything familiar, or that I have totally changed through this experience? Does it matter that now, I feel like I can conquer anything and live anywhere, because I have been successful in Istanbul?

When people ask me why I came to Istanbul, I never know what to say. I came here for a lot of reasons, to change who I was, to get away from the Western mindset, to explore the world by taking a giant leap, to challenge myself. The way I see the world and humanity has changed so drastically in the past month that I'm not sure if I knew what compassion and humanity were before I came. I’ve made great friends and seen so many breathtaking sights that I e-mail my mother almost every night and thank her for giving me life to experience this. I feel like, for the first time in my life, I have my priorities straight and I've grown up a lot. Choosing someplace that was so far from everything I've known was difficult, but I feel that it has really enriched my life. Once you live in a city for a semester, it becomes YOUR city and you can make the switch from "tourist" to "resident". We've learned how to bargain with men in the Bazaars and have adapted to the social norms of Istanbul. It has been one of the most terrifying, exciting, beautiful, rewarding, and enriching experiences of my life.

-Jennifer Blankenship (Exchange student to Yeditepe University, Turkey)
Letters From Abroad — India

As I stepped off the plane in Amritsar, the 116 degree heat of the Punjab was the first shock I received from the spectacular subcontinent of India. Things cooled off as I headed south toward the university but the stimulation was at full throttle. The smells from sweet to putrid filled my nostrils as the numerous tea stalls and village scenery wisped by through the bar laden windows of the train. This was my introduction to an absolutely rewarding adventure of studying in one of the world’s most fascinating nations where I quickly learned, no amount of reading or preparation could ready me for what was in store.

While many travel to India, it is the student who perhaps benefits the most, in that s/he gains a wider perspective into a place that cannot be grasped by short stints in the Himalayas or on the beaches of Goa. A student is able to move beyond the stereotypical Sadhu and elephant imagery that is sold by both western and eastern travel companies and see the nation as it is; a developing powerhouse that is changing, and not changing, as it modernizes. Being a student in India opened up dialogue that may have otherwise been inopportune. Once many of the Indians I spoke with in the bazaars, temples, mosques, and trains learned I was a student they wanted to know why I came to India to study along with just about every other detail of my life, which is the norm. As many people are very open and friendly, this question came up in the repertoire repeatedly, so I had time to develop an answer that became more personal than the usual sincere but generic response such as, “for the culture” or “the experience.”

I found that along with the experiences that come with travel such as new food, friends and experiences also came the understanding of my place in the global mix. Having never been to a developing nation, I found many things were hard to deal with at first. Empathy was running overtime the entire eight months of my stay. Modernity mixed with poverty, pollution and a wide array of assorted human drama was constantly playing out before my eyes and was inescapable. The dire suffering and unparalleled beauty jolted me out of my textbook world and into the media of life as lived by much of the planet.

In all of this you realize, as you could never truly do before, that your actions however small, add to this drama and you have the power to shape the world in which you live. While somewhat cliché, it’s the unavoidable honesty with which I was confronted. India is a personal learning experience that you share with its one billion inhabitants. Feeling this interconnectedness was perhaps the greatest revelation received during my study period and one that will remain imprinted in my psyche for the rest of my days.

India has it all, and if you’re willing to work for it she will embrace you with welcoming arms that make you never want to let go. Personal thanks to Dr. Charles Orzech and Dr. Gregory Grieve.

-K. David Myers (Exchange student to Hyderabad University, India)

International Travel Fund

We are pleased to announce that the following faculty members have been awarded an ITF grant in March: Vidyaranya Gargeya, Information Systems & Operations Management (Italy); Ruth King; Information Systems & Operations Management (Italy); Eileen Kohlenberg, Nursing (Austria); Art Murphy, Anthropology (Croatia); Prashant Palvia, Information Systems & Operations Management (Italy).

The ITF brochure and budget form can be found on the IPC website at: www.uncg.edu/ipg/facultystaff/fgoingabroad/travelfunds.html

Kohler Award Fund

The next deadline for applications in Research and Teaching is April 13, 2007. The Kohler Fund brochure, coversheet, and budget form can be found on the IPC website at: www.uncg.edu/ipg/facultystaff/internationalize/fundingopportunities.html
Recent Visitors

On Tuesday, March 20, Dr. Petr Girg, from the Západočeská Univerzita v Plzni, Czech Republic, a former visiting Scholar, visited colleagues in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He and Prof. Jan Rychtar are working to create international opportunities for faculty and students in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

On Tuesday, March 27, UNCG hosted Dr. Chie Iguchi, from Ritsumeikan University, Japan. The visit resulted in a new MOU and a student exchange agreement.

Visiting International Scholars

UNCG would like to welcome, Dr. Wu Jing, from China, a visiting short-term Scholar in the Department of Psychology hosted by Professor Edward Wisniewski.

On Thursday, March 15, UNCG welcomed Dr. Ian Fairnie, from Curtin University, Australia.

On Tuesday, March 20, Dr. Petr Girg, from the Západočeská Univerzita v Plzni, Czech Republic, a former visiting Scholar, visited colleagues in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He and Prof. Jan Rychtar are working to create international opportunities for faculty and students in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

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Friday Fest Schedule*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>6 Apr</td>
<td>Spring Holiday - No Friday Fest</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Apr</td>
<td>Friday before I-Fest - No Friday Fest</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Apr</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
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<td>27 Apr</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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*Subject to Change, updates are on the web

For more information email ipgga2@uncg.edu

Newsworthy on the Web

http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/resources/newsworthy.html

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

This month’s Newsworthy was edited by Daniel Diaz, Program Coordinator. Newsworthy is published monthly during the academic year. To submit an article for consideration, please email: int_programs@uncg.edu