UNCG Shines During International Education Week (IEW)

Considering the large turnout for this year’s IEW (November 13-17) and the wonderful praise received, we would like to thank everyone who participated in making UNCG’s campus an incredible location to celebrate International Education. Throughout the week, the Bryan School of Business, Career Services, and Phillips-Hawkins Residence Hall (I-House) kept the campus bustling with various information sessions, opportunities to meet and learn from international students, scholars, and professionals, as well as an International Jeopardy game, which tested the knowledge of U.S. and international students.

IEW concluded with a very grand Austrian Friday Fest, the announcement of the photo contest winners, and a talent show that left the audience in standing ovation. Performances included various songs, dances, poems and even a memorized recital of the infinite decimal Pi (300 digits worth!), rounding up was the final solution. Thanks to everyone who made this year's IEW another great success!

Study Abroad Photo Contest Winners!

This year twenty-four photos were selected for the photo contest from students who had studied abroad. The finalists were then organized into the following categories: seven landscape, six architecture, six people and culture, and five humorous finalists. The photos were displayed during IEW for observers to vote for their favorites. Categorical winners, as well as the overall best picture, were then selected. Thanks to all who participated and congratulations to the winners!

Overall: Jennifer Tate (Ulster University)

Landscape: Kylene Costa (Interior Architecture in Greece)

People: Ekatherina Osman (Yeditepe University)

Architecture: Seyed Ali Ghiassi (University of Toledo)

Humorous: Christin Bird (University of Klagenfurt)
Letters From Abroad!

It is easy to believe the stereotypes you hear about foreign countries. Ireland is a green land where people Riverdance and eat Lucky Charms all the time. That is a common misconception. The grocery stores don't even have that cute little leprechaun cereal here, and the only marshmallow that really applies is the rainbow, because they truly do appear in the sky all the time!

I have loved it here since I flew into Dublin nearly three months ago. I find the ancient Gaelic traditions fascinating and think it is very impressive that Dublin recently celebrated its one-thousand year anniversary. Though the south is more rooted in rich Irish heritage, the Northern counties of Ireland where I live are more associated with the United Kingdom. Just up the road from my university in Coleraine is the tourist hot spot, the Giant's Causeway. Legend has it that these natural volcanic pillars were formed by an Irish giant named McCool who got into a rumble with a Scottish giant in the sea.

After my fair share of sight seeing, I settled into my campus dorm and have enjoyed every second of it. The Irish students pack up their suitcases and go home every weekend, but that has just brought us Internationals closer together. I have befriended people from all over the world, even some Americans! Everyone seems to want to take advantage of their time abroad so we go out to the Irish pubs to have a Guinness together every once and a while. Sometimes we are inspired by the music and gather to dance in a large multicultural circle.

Needless to say I have grown very attached to my new Irish lifestyle. I am so thankful for this opportunity and think everyone should take advantage of this once in a lifetime chance while you can!

- Hayley Carter

The Finns are reserved. They bike everywhere as they are all along streets and in huge racks. Everything closes early. There is not too much of a hustle or bustle anywhere. Even in the city center, it is relaxed. A 24 hour anything seems unheard of.

In the rural parts, separate roads are dedicated solely for traveling by bike. The land is flat. The sea, lakes and little bodies of water are all throughout the city. Bridges are everywhere and apartments offer nice views for tenants. Bark on many trees is almost white in color. There is now snow covering the ground and daylight is ending early.

Those of us in Nordic Design ventured out the last few days of September and traveled all throughout the northern parts of the country, known as Lapland. We took turns bathing in the sauna and jumping in the lakes. In Lapland, there are more reindeer than people and we saw many. Senate Square is a landmark for Helsinki. Other points of interests for me were the train station and the KIASMA, Museum of Contemporary Art. The city is lively.

In the third weekend of October, I visited the city of Copenhagen. Denmark's capital is dense and overtaken by vehicle and bike traffic. I visited churches that seemed to be on every other block in the old parts of the city and mansions built for Royalty. A canal tour showed the city's outer parts including passing an apartment where Hans Christian Anderson lived and the notorious statue of the Little Mermaid.

Jed Brooks
November 18th, 2007
Oulu, Finland
Recent Visitors
On Monday November 6, UNCG and IPC welcomed Gordon Smith, Senior Lecturer in Business Operations Strategy from the University of Plymouth, United Kingdom. While on his visit Mr. Smith met with representatives of the Bryan School of Business and Economics including, Don McCrickard, Lucy Robbins, Heidi Fischer, Ben Farrer, and Riad Ajami.

On Tuesday October 31, UNCG and IPC welcomed Françios Henry, U.S.A. Exchange Coordinator from Rennes University II, France. While on his visit Mr. Henry met with, Mike Dement and Rod Wyatt (Intercollegiate Athletics), David Fein and Roberto Campo (Romance Languages), Pam McRae (Lloyd International Honors College), and Mark Schumacher (Jackson Library).

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 November: Hazel Brown, Nursing (Australia); Nir Kshetri, Business Administration (South Korea); Christian Moraru, English (Romania); and David Nelson, Music (Austria); and Eluza Santos, Dance (Portugal).

International Travel Fund
We are pleased to announce that Lakshmi Iyer (India), in the department of Information Systems and Operations Management, has been awarded an ITF grant in November.

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

Kohler Award Fund
The next deadline for applications in Institutional Linkages, Internationalizing the Curriculum, Research, Special Programs, Student Programs, and Teaching is January 26, 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

INTERLINK
INTERLINK’s enrollment is keeping pace with the general resurgence of international student enrollment throughout the U.S. The total full time enrollment numbers rose 80% from 2005. This increase also reflects the number of students conditionally admitted to UNCG’s undergraduate or graduate programs. We anticipate more new student and faculty faces in January.

INTERLINK students helped to organize a Muslim celebration of A’id, which marks the end of Ramadan; the event was held at Piney Lake. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and is believed to be when the Holy Quran “was sent down from heaven” to the prophet Muhammad. It is during this month that Muslims observe the Fast of Ramadan, which lasts the entire month and forbids eating or drinking during the daylight hours.

Class visits to schools and WMFY-TV were productive opportunities to share cultural ideas. The Director, David Parsons attended the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) re-accreditation workshop in Alexandria, Virginia, a prelude to the beginning of this process as the initial five-year period of accreditation approaches its end.
Students Visited New York City Over Thanksgiving

This is a movie city! When you pass through the streets of New York City, you get the sensation of having been there with precedence. It’s true in fact that this great metropolis has been filmed by all the biggest cinema directors, from Coppola to Scorsese, or Alfred Hitchcock. All of us have climbed to the top of the Empire State Building with King Kong's hand, or journeyed the streets following Robert De Niro in “Taxi Driver”, with those classic yellow taxis. Or who does not remember Patrick Swayze's scenes crossing the wagons of the New Yorker meter in “Ghost”. New York is all that and more… it is the luxury that comes from 5th Avenue, where the most famous stores and restaurants are; it is the Statue Of Liberty, a global symbol; it is Broadway, home of the theatre and Times Square, famous because it is where the U.S population celebrates the new year on TV, a spectacle for the whole world.

The activity in New York City is endless! One trip to the top of the Empire State Building to contemplate the greatness of Manhattan and surely you will be in awe. Wander through Central Park’s 7,458,356 square metres dodging or riding in carriages pulled by horses. Enjoy a Knicks basketball game in Madison Square Garden, a legendary location, or visit China Town, one of the more popular neighbourhoods in NYC, where every step offers the opportunity to buy a ‘Rolex’. Stand in the shadow of the Twin Towers at Ground Zero, feeling for a moment the panic, destruction, and loss of one incredibly senseless act.

New York is, with no doubt, one of the most important cities in the world, and I recommend you to visit it. I hope to return someday because as I am now leaving I have the sensation of having left too many things behind there.

-Fernando Peiró Lázaro & Valentín Emilio Fernández Elías (Toledo, Spain)