Confessions of an Exchange Student by Melanie Sloan (Canberra Spring, 2006)

My favorite picture from my time in Canberra, Australia, is of the “trolley tree”. The dorms, “the rezies” as they call it, are within walking distance of the mall and grocery market. Rules about shopping carts and bags and receipts are very different here: you push the same cart from store to store and purchases are not bagged unless you request it—they are just put back in the buggy. Most interestingly though, when you push your full cart from one store into another, they don’t check you at all. Surprising.

Since there aren’t any strict rules about the trolleys, students use them to carry their purchases back to the rezie. As a result there are as many carts around as kangaroos. We made great jokes about them: the lake trolleys preferring to swim in the shallow lake; the bush trolleys that hide in the high grasses stalking their prey; and last but not least, my personal favorite, the tree trolleys that nest in the tall gum tree. Others preferred human interaction and would wait outside the community halls to be ridden.

To me, the personification of the trolley and its continued existence on campus speaks of the relaxed, fun-loving nature of the Australians - always up for a joke and a good time. Travel is the most liberating experience one can have. Not only do you learn how to navigate streets, cities, airports, and complex administrative situations, you learn a little about navigating life; you learn a little about yourself. At some point it finally occurs to you that if you are capable of this, you are capable of anything.

Confessions of an Exchange Student by Laura Landis (USQ Spring, 2006)

My name is Laura Landis and I’ve been studying in Australia for a semester. I arrived in February and have had the time of my life! It’s sad to say that I have to go home in July. I’ve had the greatest experience that cannot be described in words. I’ve lived in Toowoomba for the past 5 months and I’ve travelled up to tropical North Queensland to see the Great Barrier Reef and I’ve travelled down south to Melbourne. Everywhere I’ve gone, I’ve met a variety of people including not only Australians but people from Germany, Sweden, Finland, England, India, New Zealand, France and Austria. Through meeting each of those different people, I’ve learned something new about myself and other cultures. This experience has forced me to grow in many different aspects and I wouldn’t change any of it for the world.
**Recent Visitors**

On Saturday, September 8, UNCG welcomed **Dr. Ian Anderson** from The School of Education at the University of Ballarat, Australia. On Monday, September 17, **Rachel Fenton**, Manager of International Programs at Massey University, New Zealand, visited the UNCG campus. On Tuesday, September 18, UNCG welcomed the **ITESM & New South Wales Delegations**: **Kate Cormie** from the University of Technology at Sydney, **Marcela Gasca** of Tec de Monterrey, Querétaro Campus, **Stephanie Johnston** of Macquarie University, **José Sandoval** and **Nadia Sustaita**, of Tec de Monterrey, Monterey Campus. And on September 20-21, **Liz McCartney**, International Relations, visited UNCG as the U.S. representative of the University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia.

**Visiting International Scholars**

UNCG and the IPC would like to welcome J-1 Research Scholars: **Ms. Jihong Shen**, **Ms. Danbin Wang** and **Ms. Hua Xu**, from China in Curriculum and Instruction; and **Mr. Jagjeet Singh** and **Mr. Chandrashaker Vanampally**, from India, in Chemistry and Biochemistry.

**Global Leadership Program**

On Wednesday, September 26, students gathered in the Faculty Center for the Global Leadership Program interest meeting. Dr. Lyn Lawrance was the primary speaker with Drs. Penelope Pynes, Director of Study Abroad and Exchange Programs, Roberto Campo, Director of the International and Global Studies Program, and Cathy Hamilton, Director of the Office of Leadership and Service-Learning, also present to explain the initiative.

The Global Leadership Program is new this semester and is designed to provide the students of UNCG with an acknowledgment of their extracurricular activities and international activities. “Upon successful completion of the Global Leadership Program,” the mission statement reads, “UNCG students should possess a set of skills that enhance their development as leaders, and, more importantly, as engaged world citizens with an appreciation of the importance of intercultural understanding reinforced by having applied these principles in their own international experiences.”

Twenty-two students attended and all expressed a great interest in the Program, and the experiences it will involve. It was a great way to launch this exciting new program. Thanks to all who made this evening such a great success!

For more information visit: www.uncg.edu/ipg/glp
**SAPA Program Enters Second Term** by Heidi Fischer

After the success of the Bryan School Study Abroad Peer Ambassador program in the spring 2007 semester, the SAPAs are now entering their second term. Eighteen students were selected through an application and interview process to represent the Bryan School at study abroad recruiting events throughout the semester. In addition, SAPAs meet one-on-one with students interested in studying abroad during “coffee hours.”

Participation in the program is voluntary, but the ambassadors are invited to participate in community-building events as well as opportunities of career and leadership development.

The new SAPAs are current students majoring in Marketing, Economics, International Business, Information Systems and Business Administration (with concentrations in Human Resources, Business Studies and Entrepreneurship/Small Business). The students spent a semester to a year in France, China, Mexico, the UK, Australia, Spain, Finland, Denmark, Germany and New Zealand. SAPA Hanni Bissell believes that studying abroad “is an unforgettable experience dealing with cultural differences, language barriers, and traveling – all important skills for the average student to develop.” Ashley Jacobson adds, “all students could benefit from a study abroad experience. It enriches the student’s life and educational experience.”

Upon selection, all SAPAs participated in a training session that included public speaking tips, an overview of UNCG’s study abroad programs and answers to questions their peers would probably ask. For more information on this program, please check out the SAPA’s website at [http://www.uncg.edu/bae/studentser/studyabroad/sapa.html](http://www.uncg.edu/bae/studentser/studyabroad/sapa.html).

**Recent Travelers**

The following UNCG faculty members traveled all over the globe in pursuit of international perspectives in their various disciplines during the following months:

*August:* Lili Sahakyan, Psychology (Australia) and Anthony Taylor, Music (Wales).
*September:* Norman Chiu, Chemistry (Greece); Derek Krueger, Religious Studies (Greece); and Kent Williams, Music (Austria).

**Kohler Award Fund**

The next deadline for applications for Institutional Linkages, Internationalizing the Curriculum, Research, Special Projects, and Student Programs will be January 25, 2008. The Kohler Fund brochure, coversheet, and budget form can be found on the IPC website at [www.uncg.edu/ipg/facultystaff/internationalize/fundingopportunities.html](http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/facultystaff/internationalize/fundingopportunities.html).

**Goodbye and Good Luck to Jessica!**

IPC would like to congratulate former employee Jessica Rolland on her new job in London. Jessica will be working as Exhibition Assistant at the Barbican Art Gallery, where interned while completing her Masters of Art Museum and Gallery Studies at the University of Leicester. Jessica worked at IPC from 2002-2004 as a Graduate Assistant, and since December 2006 has worked as a temporary employee. We wish her well for the future and will greatly miss her.

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**International Travel**

We are pleased to announce that the following faculty members have been awarded ITF grants in the following months:

*August*: Jill Green, Dance (Finland); Lili Sahakyan, Psychology (Australia); Sue Stinson, Dance (Finland); Anthony Taylor, Music (Wales); Kathleen Williams, Exercise & Sports Science (China); and Kent Williams, Music (Austria).

*September*: Norman Chiu, Chemistry (Greece); Anthony Fragola, Broadcasting & Cinema (Italy); Veronica Grossi, Romance Languages (Spain); Christopher Hodgkins, English (United Kingdom); and Michael Kane, Psychology (Germany).

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

**Happy 15th Anniversary of International Programs at UNCG!**

We will be celebrating the 15 years of our development and growth this year and have chosen the dates to be 22-23 May, 2008. Next May, with the NAFSA Conference being held in Washington, DC, which is relatively close to North Carolina, we are planning our celebration to fit conveniently with your travel plans. We hope that many of our partner institutions will join us for this special event en route to NAFSA. Please mark your calendars now, and more information will be forthcoming. If you have immediate questions, please contact us.

I look forward to seeing many of you in May.

Lyn

**New ISA Board by Michael Elliott**

The International Student Association (ISA) is off to another banner start this academic year. Two new officers, Megan Ingram as president and Brittany Atkins as business manager, were elected last month to round out the student board of officers. Other officers of the board include the vice president Angelica Kapeley, secretary Lindsay Armistead, and volunteer coordinator Nicole Wright. Representatives to the board include I-Fellows James Hauser and Ekatherina Osman.

The board and membership have begun discussing and planning several festivities and events such as the country focused Friday Fests, UNCG annual International Education Week activities taking place this November, and the large campus-wide International Festival in April. If you or someone else you know would like to get involved in the ISA and/or the activities it sponsors, please contact Dora Hastings, Student Activities Coordinator at the International Programs Center (ipgga2@uncg.edu). You may also contact her to join the ISA listserve in order to receive information about upcoming events.

**Friday Fest! by Dora Hastings**

By now you may have heard of FridayFest: the cultural event sponsored by IPC in coordination with ISA. This festival takes place nearly every Friday during the course of the semester from 2-4pm in the basement of I-House (Phillips-Hawkins Residence Hall). During this time, students gather to share in the cultural experience of a specific country or countries through food, fun presentations and socializing. So far this semester, we have enjoyed the traditions of Japan, France, Mexico, the U.S., and Australia. Students have included activities in their presentations such as origami or a fun language quiz in basic phrases. Audience volunteers have even donned kimonos and danced the Can-Can.

Door prizes are given away between presentations and food and have included gift certificates to Tate St. Coffee, Greene St. passes, and various other items such as UNCG cups and duffel bags.

Each Friday Fest program begins with announcements of activities in which students might participate, as well as updates from the International Student Association. Please join us for this weekly cultural event and begin to experience what ISA and the international community have to offer.
**ISA Myrtle Beach Trip**

Each year, the International Programs Center organizes a number of trips and activities for the benefit of our international students. Trips this semester will include Washington DC from October 13-16, and New York, November 20-25. Our latest excursion was to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. On Labor Day weekend, volunteers Ajaya Francis, Caitlin Cornwell, Kristen Moorefield and Heidi Fischer traveled with 56 students to Myrtle Beach. Students were able to sight-see, shop, or just relax in the sun.

**UNC哲’s DISNEY Student International College Program**

UNCG would like to welcome the following students: Wan Yi Chua, Kelly Leow, Karl Michael Lim, Miriam Soh, Ian Leo Tay, Shuai Wang, and Jessica Yen, from **Singapore Polytechnic University** who arrived on September 22.

**INTERLINK Updates!**

Students and faculty have been enjoying many activities around Greensboro this term. A Greensboro Grasshoppers game at the stadium downtown was a good introduction to baseball and students are planning to participate in a game of their own at the end of the term. Students and staff also experienced the annual “Get Downtown,” and a group dinner at McCoul's served as an introduction to new cuisine. The latest adventure was a Saturday trip to the zoo, where students learned more about African and North American animals.

INTERLINK students are looking for conversation partners to talk about cultural and other topics. If you are interested or have suggestions about identifying students who might be interested please contact Stephanie Rummel at srummel444@yahoo.com for more information.

**Friday Fest**

**Oct. 5 Spain**

**Oct. 19 Saudi Arabia**

**Oct. 26 China & Hong Kong**

This is a tentative schedule. Updates will be sent through the ISA list serve and are available on the website:

**Newsworthy on the Web**

[www.uncg.edu/ipg/resources/newsworthy.html](http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/resources/newsworthy.html)

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This month’s Newsworthy was edited by Charlotte Ingles, Graduate Assistant. Newsworthy is published monthly during the academic year. To submit an article for consideration, please email cingles@uncg.edu