Meet the International Students Association officers!

This year, the International Students Association has a new board of officers who are building bridges of understanding at UNCG through exciting programming. Our most frequent and popular program is the weekly Friday Fest. Every Friday from 2:00-4:00pm in the Phillips-Hawkins Residence Hall basement, international students present their countries’ cultures through music, dance, information, and food. Each week a different country is featured. A typical Friday Fest turnout for this year has been more than 70 students. We look forward to seeing all UNCG faculty, staff, and students there!

The largest event of the ISA year is the International Festival, which is held each year in April on UNCG’s campus. Last year, the event included more than 50 country booths, 12 student organizations, 8 vendors, and a variety of entertainers. As always, we hope to improve the festival and expand the “Global Village” to include more booths.

The New ISA Board of Officers (home countries in parentheses): President: Paola Savvidou (Cyprus) Studied abroad in New Zealand; Vice President & International Fellow Representative: Megan Ingram (USA & Uruguay); Secretary: Aden Hailermariam (USA & Eritrea); Committee Member: Crista Cuccaro (USA); Business Manager: Jonathan Kuuskoski (Canada & USA) Studied abroad in New Zealand; Webmaster: Serhat Canoruc (Turkey); Volunteer Coordinator: Yoonsuh Lee (South Korea); Public Relations: Carlo Costa (Italy); Faculty Advisor: Anelise Hofmann (Brazil); and Programs Coordinator: David Di Maria (USA) Studied abroad in Estonia.

IPC recognizes Director of Athletics, Nelson Bobb’s and the UNCG Intercollegiate Athletics department’s effort to instill in our international students a sense of “Spartan Spirit”. UNCG hopes that international students will take pride in their university and feel like a part of the community—whether here for a short-term exchange or for an entire degree program. To that end, the athletics department graciously created t-shirts that feature flags from each of the more than 80 (!) countries represented at UNCG. These beautiful t-shirts will be distributed to every international student who attends the UNCG women’s soccer game vs. Georgia Southern on Sunday, October 16. This soccer game (or football match) will surely be a not-to-miss event. For further information about this special event, watch for an e-mail on the ISA list-serv. Thanks again, Nelson and Christy!
The Life of an I-Fellow, or how to make international students love country music

By Sandy Dempsey, International Fellow

The best part about living in the I-House is having half the world come to visit you. I’ve never studied abroad and now that I’m a senior, my chance has slipped past me. Still, the melting pot of culture in Phillips-Hawkins has made me feel as if I’m doing the next best thing.

When I was placed in Phillips-Hawkins in my sophomore year, I was outraged to be in the “far away” dorm. After I began to get to know some of the international students, however, it turned out to be the best dorm on campus. Sometimes, it feels like its own community; its own little universe.

I love being an International Fellow. I love helping students move in, taking them around Greensboro for the first time, telling them about campus traditions and giving them tips about where to go and what to do on and off campus. As an I-Fellow, I live with the other female I-Fellows and help plan programs for the international students. When I tell people I work as an International Fellow in the I-House, they ask me if I’m a CA. No, I’m not. If I were, I would have said, “I’m a CA.”

I think of international fellows as a resource. If you need anything at all come talk to us. We might be able to help, and we might not, but we’ll sure as heck try. Megan and I live in the community room so that other students can feel comfortable hanging out. If you’ve never come by to ask how far of a walk it is to Friendly Center, to borrow a DVD, or just to say “Hi. Wow, your room is HUGE,” you’re missing out.

Another great part about living in the I-House is the lobby. Almost any time of day, you’ll find someone in the lobby doing homework, on the computers or watching TV downstairs. The laundry room has become almost a study lounge, too. People say that it feels like a hostel because of the sense of community in the lobby; I agree.

My favorite time of year is orientation week. The international students are stressed out and tired from traveling, but everyone is very open and willing to try anything new. That’s why we go to Arizona Pete’s the first week, before everyone discovers they hate country music. I love the regularity of spots from year to year. Everyone will always go to El Carretón and New York Pizza, undoubtedly.

All in all, I can’t imagine living anywhere else on campus. The I-House is the coolest dorm. It has the best residents and the best staff, too. I hope the International Fellow program continues years after I’m gone and becomes known as the best job on campus, because it already is.

International Students Association's Myrtle Beach Trip
Recent Visitors

On Tuesday, September 13, Catherine Holderness (MBA Office) and IPC welcomed Kathrin Paul from the Fachhochschule Ludwigsafen, Germany and Rainer Philip from the multi-faceted German company, RWE. During the visit, they also spent time with BiP students from Ludwigsafen, who are beginning their MBA studies at UNCG this semester.

On Monday, September 19—Tuesday, September 20, Michelle Stewart, Head of the International and Graduate Office, and Zane Wright, Adult Information Service, Schools and Colleges Liaison Office, visited IPC from partner school Strathclyde University in Scotland. During their visit, Michelle and Zane met with Lise Keller and Kacy Hodgin (Undergraduate Admissions), Ellen Redmond (Student Marketing & Communication), and Jim Petersen and Becky Saunders (Graduate School). They also met with Betsy Lindsey (Social Work) and David Perrin (Health & Human Performance).

Tim Jordan from Macquarie University in Australia visited IPC on Monday, September 19. During his visit, Tim observed study abroad interviews and met with Heidi Fischer and Lucy Robbins (Bryan School of Business), and Dale Schunk (School of Education).

IPC hosted Sam Baillie from Deakin University in Australia on Friday, September 23. During his visit, Sam met Heidi Fischer and Bud Miles (Bryan School of Business), John Lee Jellicorse (Broadcasting & Cinema), Cheryl Lovelady (Nutrition), and Sue Stinson (Dance). In addition to becoming acquainted with UNCG faculty, Sam spent time with exchange students Caitlin Fitzpatrick and Arjun Jayaraj from Deakin, and Courtney Money, former UNCG study abroad student to Deakin (2004).

Recent Travelers

During the month of September, UNCG faculty members traveled all over the globe in pursuit of international perspectives in their various disciplines (destinations in parentheses): James Benshoff, Counseling & Ed Development (Turkey); and William Crowther, Political Science (Hungary); Lyn Lawrance, IPC (Estonia, Poland, & China); and Penelope Pynes, IPC (Estonia & Poland).

* If we have inadvertently omitted anyone, please e-mail Dorian Arnold at dcarlold@uncg.edu.

International Travel Fund

Omission: In our September Newsworthy issue, we omitted the following faculty who were awarded an ITF in August: Diane Gill, Exercise & Sports Science (Canada); and Gwen Hunnicutt, Sociology (Canada).

We are pleased to announce that the following faculty members have been awarded ITF grants in September: Arthur Murphy, Anthropology (Ecuador); William Crowther, Political Science (Hungary); Ana Hontanilla, Romance Languages (Italy); Christian Moraru, English (Romania); and Saundra Westervelt, Sociology (Canada).

The ITF brochure and budget form can be found at the website listed at right.

Kohler Award Fund

The next deadline for applications in institutional linkages, internationalizing the curriculum, research, special projects, student programs, and teaching categories is January 27, 2006. The Kohler Fund brochure, coversheet, and budget form can be found on the IPC website at www.uncg.edu/ipg/ipc/fdp.html.
INTERLINK students offer international perspectives to UNCG students
Submitted by Lynn Bergschneider, Assistant Director, INTERLINK Language Center/UNCG

INTERLINK’s Level 3 Speaking and Listening class spent two classes meeting with Dorothy Davis’s UNS 105 freshman seminar class that was exploring images of nurses. The American students were able to meet some new international students and ask questions to discover how nurses are perceived in other cultures, and what stereotypes exist. Both sets of students enjoyed participating in these interviews and sharing their perspectives.

Friday Fest

Australia, September 9

Mexico, September 16

Denmark, September 23

Upcoming Friday Fests
September 30  Canada
October 7    Finland
October 14   United Kingdom
October 21   Estonia & New Zealand
October 28   China
November 4   Turkey
November 11  Austria
November 18  Sweden

The world becomes smaller everyday
Submitted by Bill Markham, UNCG Sociology professor

I am a visiting scholar in the Netherlands this semester, and am attending a conference in Torun, Poland. While I was waiting in line for lunch, I noticed a young woman whose face seemed familiar to me. After a few minutes she came up to me and said, "Hi Professor, do you remember me?" Turns out she took an undergraduate course from me five years ago at UNCG while she was an exchange student. She is now working on a Ph.D. in a Polish university. I guess we really do build international networks!

Bill Markham attending a conference in Bath, England

Photographs in this issue of Newsworthy were contributed by Dorian Arnold, Sandy Dempsey, Milla Halttu, Daio Hofmann, and Bill Markham.

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

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