

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

An Office of International Programs Newsletter

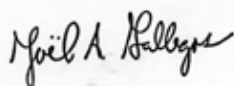
Executive Director's Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

One year has passed since our inaugural newsletter. Our aim remains the same: to inform UNC Charlotte of events, calls for collaboration and opportunities for achievement relating to the internationalization of our campus. *Global Perspective* also gives us a chance to reflect quarterly on the events that have occurred since the previous issue and to look forward to plans for the upcoming weeks.

Since our last issue, we've engaged the campus and community in a celebration of our shared world at the thirty-first annual International Festival; we've hosted researchers, students and faculty from Japan, Moldova, China, Korea and Germany; we've collaborated with the College of Health and Human Services on developing student programs in Mexico; and we've welcomed increased numbers of students from around the world to our campus.

In the weeks to follow we will celebrate International Education Week (November 13-17), induct new members to the Mu Chapter of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars and host the NAFSA (Association of International Educators) regional conference here in Charlotte. We'll also be saying goodbye to our location in the Denny building as we anticipate a move to the new College of Health and Human Services building. As always, we invite you, the faculty and staff of UNC Charlotte, to join us in our initiatives, contact us with your ideas or simply give us a heads-up on events of an international nature occurring in your department.



Joël A. Gallegos, *Executive Director*



Mexican flag made of flowers in the government building in Puebla

¡Viva Mexico!

On September 13th Jane Neese, Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, Clarrice Rapisarda, Assistant Professor, Counseling Program and Brad Sekulich, Director, Office of Education Abroad went to the city of Guanajuato, Mexico to establish new study abroad programs for UNC Charlotte students seeking professional degrees in the fields of Health Care and Counseling. The trio spent 3 full days visiting hospitals, health care facilities and a nursing school as well as meeting with a curandera (folk medicine practitioner) and representatives from the State Secretariat for Health in three cities in the state of Guanajuato.

The visit resulted in the ground work being laid for 2 new programs in Guanajuato, one spring break program for undergraduate and graduate

students in Health and Human Services and one summer program for graduate students in the Counseling Program. The programs will focus on exposing our students to the cultural context in which health care is practiced in Mexico.

After Guanajuato, Neese and Sekulich headed south to Puebla where they worked with the Universidad Popular Autonoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP) to create a five-week summer study abroad opportunity for students in nursing in healthcare with a focus on intensive medical Spanish language training as well as the context of healthcare in the Mexican system. This program will be inaugurated in summer 2007.

An important goal in the development of all three of these programs is to

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Documentary Film Explores Mexican Perspective

Milagros: Made in Mexico is a one-hour documentary that allows the U.S. viewer to understand the Mexican perspective on migration. Women with business savvy and economic assistance develop initiatives designed to bolster development in Guanajuato, Mexico and thereby provide incentive for their children and families to remain in the land of which they are so proud.

Interviews for the film included: Veronica Cruz Sanchez, Executive Director of "Las Libres" and 2006 recipient of the International Human Rights Watch award; Elizabeth Littlefield, Director of the World Bank and CEO of the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP); Evelyn Siquin, Executive Director of "Red de Mujeres" Guanajuato, Mexico; and Alex Counts, Director of Grameen Foundation, USA.

Milagros: Made in Mexico can be viewed Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 PM in the Storrs Auditorium on the campus of UNC Charlotte.

Community Event of Global Proportions

Each International Festival officially begins with the sounds of the Scottish Loch Norman Pipe Band resonating through the Halton Arena as they make their way around the track and to the outdoor stage. When the bagpipes are heard, the festival has begun.

The 31st annual International Festival was held this year on September 30 at the Barnhardt Student Activity Center. Art, jewelry and photos depicted cultures from the world over. The variety of food available to taste required a complete walk-through of the booths at least once before deciding on a lunch combination. The marquee in the center of the Halton Arena displayed constant script supplementing the events on the main stage. Dance, music and costumes reflected subtle codes of tradition, and a masked entertainer filled the seats with his daring dance on wooden stilts.

The International Festival at UNC Charlotte has engaged the Charlotte community and University faculty, staff and students for 31 years. The 32nd annual International Festival will continue the tradition. Mark your calendars for September 29, 2007 to be a part of an event that celebrates global community.



photos courtesy of The University Times

Spring into Study Abroad



We are excited here at the Office of Education Abroad to be sending approximately 80 students abroad during the 2007 spring semester. Students will be prepared for their experiences abroad at our Pre-departure Orientations on November 4th for semester students and November 18th for students studying in the UNC Charlotte-administered

Semester in Spain program.

Pre-departure aims to prepare students for their study abroad experience by giving them strategies to deal with culture shock and other challenges they may encounter in their host nation. This is particularly exciting given that each year we have at least a few students who have never been on a plane, let alone who have never traveled abroad.

¡Viva Mexico! *continued*

give UNC Charlotte students who will work with immigrant populations exposure to the environment from which many immigrants to the Carolinas come. More than a language barrier can often keep an immigrant from understanding how to receive needed health care in a new country.

Anyone interested in more information on these programs can contact the Office of Education Abroad in 114 Denny or at 704 687 2464.

Japanese Artists: Force of Nature

The College of Architecture at UNC Charlotte was one of seven locations to host Japanese artists for a six-week residency. Ayako Aramaki and Akira Higashi spent their residency at UNC Charlotte and left behind provocative pieces of contemporary art. The Force of Nature exhibition explored the relationship between humans and nature as expressed by the artists and begged the question, are we a part of, or apart from nature?

Ayako Aramaki attempts to merge the urban world with the simplistic, untamed wilderness through her work. She takes overgrown weeds, vines, and brush from unkempt properties and assembles them into structures that relate to both the original site and its context within the natural landscape. Her work questions man's insistence on interfering with the natural order.

Akira Higashi uses traditional construction materials to create vernacular enclosures based on the dimensions of the human body. Viewers are encouraged to enter the works and experience each other's company as the din of modern society is filtered out by the "communication machines."

Though the artists have completed their residency, their visit is only the first part of the year-long initiative with seven institutions in North and South Carolina. A capstone exhibition will take place at the Sumter Gallery of Art in Sumter, SC from late April through June 2007 thereby allowing the public to see the breadth of the project at one location.



Top: "Circulation" by Ayako Aramaki
Bottom: "Class" a clay hut sculpture by Akira Higashi

More information can be found at
www.halsey.cofc.edu/fon.html.

International Studies Update

This fall has been one of considerable extra-curricular programming for International Studies.

- The semester kicked off with an Open House in Macy for both students and faculty.
- Melissa Chambers, formerly an adviser with the Office of Education Abroad, has organized a series of three Cross-Cultural Understanding programs. The first of these programs featured a panel of students recently returned from study abroad and internship experiences who shared stories and vignettes of their cross-cultural encounters. The series

continues with workshops designed to help students understand some of the more significant challenges they will face when living and interacting with people of other backgrounds.

- In cooperation with the University Career Center, International Studies is also sponsoring a workshop on Exploring International Careers.

In addition, International Studies students continue to distinguish themselves academically: Tabitha Bennett and Elizabeth Grimmer were awarded the prestigious Fowler International Scholarship for 2006-07.

Workshops Given for International Students and Advisors

On October 12th and 18th, 2006, the International Student/Scholar Office offered a workshop entitled: "Immigration 101 for Academic Advisors of F-1 International Students." This workshop is offered annually and addresses the various challenges international students face in the U.S. culture and academic setting, what their immigration responsibilities are, what goes on "behind the scenes" in order for them to get to UNC Charlotte, and what services the International Student/Scholar Office provides. The workshops were attended by approximately twenty academic advisors at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

On October, 20, 2006, Denise Medeiros, Assistant Director, International Student/Scholar Office presented a half-day training session entitled: "F-1 Basics" at the North Carolina Association of International Educators. This training is designed for new international student advisors at institutions of higher education in North Carolina and covers topics such as creating and maintaining F-1 immigration documents and federal record keeping requirements. The workshop was attended by approximately thirty participants.

Virtual Humans Teaching Cultural Protocols



Sabarish Babu with his virtual human creations.

Imagine that you are planning for an international business trip. In preparation you have been given a 1”-thick manual on the cultural/social customs of the host country. Unfortunately, learning culture from text and pictures can be dry and does not guarantee that you have learned enough to act appropriately when you arrive at your destination.

Sabarish Babu, a Ph.D. student in the College of Computing and Informatics, has developed a new way to teach culturally appropriate behavior. Using virtual reality, Babu has developed a life-size virtual human that can be projected on a screen and can instruct a participant in correct cultural protocol starting with the proper greeting style of South India. The virtual tutor describes and demonstrates the correct placement of the hands and the proper way to bow while greeting. Then the participant practices. While wearing special tracking devices on his/her head, hands and waist, the participant greets the virtual human on the screen. The virtual tutor either praises the participant’s performance or points out which movements need correction in order to prevent culturally offensive behavior.

Babu’s research not only marks a milestone for the College of Computing and Informatics but for the field of Virtual Reality overall. Until now, virtual reality programs existed that allowed a person to take a virtual walk or a virtual tour of an ancient city, but they did not require the user to interact with a virtual human or practice social behavior. Using virtual humans to teach a social protocol has never been done before.

This work is to appear as an application paper in the International Conference on Virtual Reality 2007. Babu will graduate with his Ph.D. in May and pursue a career in academia where he will continue to explore the applications of human/virtual human interaction. For more information, visit Babu’s webpage at <http://www.cs.uncc.edu/~sabu/>, or to contact Babu for a collaborative project you may email him at sbabu@uncc.edu.

International Student Enrollment for Fall 2006

Figures on fall enrollment of international students at UNC Charlotte are now available. They show 685 students enrolled in the F-1 student visa category which is an overall increase of 28 students from fall 2005. While it now appears that there is a slight upward trend after some years of student enrollment decline we are some distance from the peak enrollment of 739 in the fall of 2002.

The fall figures show a slight increase in undergraduates, N of 227 as compared to 222 in 2005. This is in large part due to the increased number of Saudi students on scholarship from their home government. At the graduate level there is a 15 point increase in MA/MS students and a 10 point increase in PhD students for an overall total of 25 more graduate students in fall 2006 than 2005. Students from India and China make up the majority of student increase. Indians continue to hear about UNC Charlotte from their senior friends who are currently enrolled. Chinese students are beneficiaries of a liberalization of the US policy on issuing non-resident visas and also a rapidly expanding economy that is creating a population that can afford to study abroad. Students from both countries are recipients of many of the student teaching/research appointments. 37% of the total international student enrollment is master’s students and 33% is PhD students.

Three of the ‘top five’ enrollment countries have had an increase in total numbers and two have decreased as follows: India: 241 (+27); China: 108(+30), Saudi Arabia: 26 (+11) Japan: 28 (-16), South Korea 26 (-15).

By academic level, the ‘top five’ countries in order of magnitude are:

Undergraduate: Saudi Arabia, Japan, India, South Korea, Taiwan

Masters: India, China, Taiwan, France, South Korea

Doctoral: China, India, South Korea, Pakistan, Iran, Lebanon, Russia (the last three all have the same student count).

UNC Charlotte also welcomes J-1 exchange students for one or two semesters of study each year. This fall there are 40 exchange students representing 14 different exchange programs – some being bi-lateral exchanges and others being through a consortia arrangement such as UNCEP- University of North Carolina Exchange Program.

An estimated 75 additional students in other non-resident visa categories are enrolled. These are students whose main purpose for coming to the US is other than study but who are also able to pursue full or part-time study.

Information provided by the International Student/Scholar Office.

Faculty Development Program brings Japanese Researchers to UNC Charlotte



Japanese researchers with UNC Charlotte faculty and staff

The Office of Intercultural Outreach Programs recently concluded a two-week program that brought six professors from the Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Japan, to campus for professional development and exploration of opportunities for long-term research collaboration. The professors, whose academic areas included bioinformatics, genetic engineering, nano-science, optics, control theory, molecular biology, organic chemistry, and computer engineering, had opportunities to meet with UNC Charlotte faculty and staff in an effort to foster professional relationships and forge an institution-wide partnership.

When asked about the program, Susan Lambert, Director, Intercultural Outreach Programs, said, "These six professors were truly exemplary ambassadors for their institution and earned the respect of everyone whom they met. They generated an unprecedented level of enthusiasm amongst our faculty and administrators for cultivating a long-term collaborative relationship between the Nara Institute of Science and Technology and UNC Charlotte."

The program included meetings with university administrators, tours of our labs and facilities, class observations, and teaching development seminars on topics such as oral presentation skills, using technology in teaching, retention and accreditation. More than 55 UNC Charlotte faculty and staff and 20 university departments were involved with the program in a variety of ways ranging from presenting sessions to formal meetings to lunch-time conversation.

Chill out with Summer Programs

We are offering 15 programs in summer 2007 and response to the offerings is already strong. One of our new programs is "British Media in the 21st Century", led by Cheryl Spainhour and taught at Kingston University. This four week program will explore the trends and technology in current British journalistic practice. Students on the program will tour London-based journalism facilities where they will explore the history and growth of the industry. They will also have the opportunity to appear on the Journalism minor website with their reports and photographs of British life as they encounter it during the program.

We are also excited about new initiatives from the Colleges of Health and Human

Services and Education for study abroad opportunities in Mexico. The Office of Education Abroad Director, Brad Sekulich, Jane Neese and Clarrice Rapisarda visited Guanajuato in September to explore new programs. Neese and Sekulich continued on to Puebla in order to create a 5 week summer opportunity for students in healthcare.

Please come by the office at Denny 114 for more details about our programs and for applications. Any faculty interested in conducting a summer program can call 704-687-2464 to arrange a meeting with Brad Sekulich to begin planning a program designed to a specialty of interest in a location of choice.

What Do You Really Know?

The World Affairs Council of Charlotte will host over 100 students from public and private high schools from the greater Charlotte area to test their international knowledge on November 16, 2006. Academic WorldQuest invites high school teams of eight students to answer grueling questions in 10 rounds of trivia ranging in scope from geography and history to current events and international humanitarian relief organizations. The event originated in Charlotte and has since gone on to gain national recognition. The winning team from Charlotte will have an opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to test their knowledge against high school teams from across the country.

How would you fare? Try the following questions taken from last year's adult WorldQuest.

1. What unusual event takes place in Guatemala on Election Day?

- All citizens are asked to fast before voting
- Children make elaborate masks in order to scare off opponents
- All government buildings are shut down and boarded up
- All active duty members of the armed forces are confined to their barracks

2. What country is trying to find a cure for RHS or "retired husband syndrome"?

- Philippines
- England
- Canada
- Japan

3. In 2005, which European nation signed a major deal with Russia to build a gas pipeline under the Baltic Sea between the two countries?

- Denmark
- Ukraine
- Poland
- Germany

The answers are all D.

Adults will have the opportunity to compete in their own **WorldQuest competition on February 21, 2007**. Mark your calendar, get your team of eight together, and start studying! For questions or registration information, please call Jennifer Armentrout at 704-687-4485.

Campus Community Gets Involved in Intercultural Outreach Programs



The Office of Intercultural Outreach Programs (IOP) recently concluded another program season that involved more than 75 UNC Charlotte faculty and staff from thirty university departments. Many served as instructors and presenters while some joined in roundtable discussions and meetings with participants. Others generously hosted participants for meals or home stay experiences.

When asked about involving the campus community in programming, Susan Lambert, Director of IOP, noted “These programs contribute to the environment for cross-cultural understanding on the campus and in the community. Interaction with the international students, professors and teachers we bring to campus helps us to expand our thinking and see the connections between our teaching, research, and outreach missions.”

Over 60 people from the Charlotte regional community met the participants while fifteen local businesses, organizations and schools provided additional experiential learning opportunities.

Part of the Office of International Programs, IOP offers custom-designed educational and cultural programs to groups of international students and mid-career professionals.

Model United Nations

With advances in technology linking people separated by continents and oceans, students emerging from today’s classrooms need to be global citizens, in the best sense of the word. The Model United Nations (MUN) program at UNC Charlotte, sponsored by the Department of Political Science, is structured to give students an opportunity to become this type of citizen. Students serve in MUN as diplomats of a member country. They address international problems currently being debated in the UN through committee work aimed at achieving solutions acceptable to all nations represented. They must “walk in the shoes” of a member country, not as an American, but as an ambassador from that country.

Founded in 1979, this program starts in the fall semester as a club, providing students interested in international issues an opportunity to learn the skills they will need. The UNC Charlotte organization hosts a “training” MUN conference for area colleges each October, inviting schools with interested students to

participate and helping them to develop strong delegate preparation programs. Those students willing to work hard for no academic credit are given the chance to participate as part of the UNC Charlotte delegation to the Southern Regional MUN Conference in Atlanta in November. From these students, a class roster is formed for the spring semester of those students who have shown the most aptitude and the greatest determination.

During the spring of 2006, 20 UNC Charlotte students in the MUN program traveled to China to participate in a conference which was held on the campus of Beijing University. Two of these students, Adam Bridgers and Burl Holland, won Outstanding Diplomacy Awards. The MUN program at Charlotte takes home many awards every year from regional and international conferences and is widely regarded as one of the most successful programs in the southeast. UNC Charlotte’s MUN is the only program in North Carolina that attends an international conference each year.

Excerpts from a Student Study Abroad Application Essay

I landed in London with my checklist of cliché perceptions of all things foreign short of an American flag wrapped around my face, I felt unbelievably overwhelmed. I was comfortable in my little security net of expensive environment depleting cars and an excessive use of the “like” in everyday dialogue. I believe culture shock is a bit dramatic yet overwhelmed doesn’t quite express it either. There is no real way for me to analyze a thought process built on naivety and ignorance. Besides being embarrassed by my initial impressions I’d rather leave them as just that initial but not lasting impressions.

Upon arrival the day was filled with the immediate whining about “where are we going to sleep?”, “Is it really always raining in London?” and “Why am I so tired,” predictable, however, still highly annoying. I got on the train thinking how much it stank and was it possible to die from suffocation of other people’s funk? Of course, me, my bag, my friend, her bag, our dumbfounded looks and the leftover drool crusted to my face from the red eye was not what the average Brit rushing to

work likes to see traipsing up to public transportation. The rest of the first day is a blur, between the banging of my suitcase wheels on each cobblestone and a conversion rate costing me triple of everything I paid in America, I believe my negative initial impressions are more than justifiably inaccurate and created by my own stupidity.

But the second day, oh the second day, I believe if it were possible I would say, “I do, take thee London to be my lawfully wedded husband forever!” Granted I had filled the day with tour excursions from every pamphlet I could find, it was as if I were living out some sort of fantasy invented by the buy fifteen for a pound postcard. I am not one to fall in love blindly maybe there was some sort of unearthly magnetic pull sent to finally bring me to the place I belonged or maybe I am just the ultimate me abroad. Either way I truly whole heartedly loved London. Much to the dismay of my family and friends when I returned home, London is a feeling, no adjective or noun can describe it fully. I try to remind myself

not to be annoyed with their questions, “did you see the Queen?” “Did you miss people that talk normal?” I know I have trouble wrapping my mind around what I once thought about different cultures to what I now do. The distance is too great and the feelings run too deep.

I have thought a lot about studying back in London but however much I loved it there, it will never compare to a fresh experience in a different country. I have fantasized about Australia’s beauty ever since I was a child and I am sure, being the nerd that I am I will know everything there is to know about the culture, history, and government before ever setting foot on the land. I am bursting with excitement at the very thought of setting foot on Australia. I can’t even begin to imagine, if given the opportunity, what new experiences will progress my personality. I don’t know what to expect but I do know that studying abroad is created for people like me.

— *Renee Smusz, Summer 2006*
UNC Charlotte Study Abroad Program



◀ *Moldova sponsored by USAID and International House of Charlotte visited UNC Charlotte on October 17th to learn more about scientific research programs, alumni communities and university development, and public university autonomy and organization in American public universities. OIP arranged for presentations by Steve Mosier, Vice Chancellor for University Research and Development and Niles Sorensen, Vice Chancellor of Community Development and Alumni Affairs. The Moldovans were given a tour of the campus by Judy Case, OIP Director of Administration.*



◀ *On October 20th, fifteen German students participating in a two week exchange program with Independence High School visited UNC Charlotte. OIP provided them with a campus tour which included a visit to a typical student residence hall.*

Events for International Education Week 2006

— Monday, November 13 —

All Day: Charlotte host NAFSA regional conference

7PM: Latin American Student Organization meeting, Cone Center Room 111

— Tuesday, November 14 —

All Day: Charlotte host NAFSA regional conference

5PM: International Club meeting, Denny 119

7PM: Caribbean Connection Culture night: Food, dance and exhibits from the Caribbean, Cone Center AfterHours. Admission is free.

— Wednesday, November 15 —

5PM: Organization of African students meeting, Fretwell 128

— Thursday, November 16 —

All Day: UNC Charlotte Model UN participates in Southern Regional Model UN Conference in Atlanta GA

3:30 PM: Phi Beta Delta Annual Meeting, Barnhardt Student Activity Center, Salons A & B

4-6PM: International Coffee Hour, Prospector Faculty/Staff Dining room

5:30-7:30PM: Academic World Quest Competition at First Presbyterian Church uptown.

Sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Charlotte.

7PM: Showing of the documentary "Milagros-Made in Mexico". Location: Storrs auditorium.

— Friday, November 17 —

All Day: International Visitor – Samantha Walbrugh-Parsadh, Director of Stellenbach University's International Office, will be visiting UNC Charlotte

1-3PM: Forum on race and identity in Brazil and the United States in Atkins Library. Reception immediately following the forum sponsored by the Brazilian Student Association.



◀ On October 18th OIP hosted a delegation from Shanxi University in China. The delegation visited to discuss the possibility of future collaboration and exchange with UNC Charlotte faculty and students. They met with several faculty and staff and were given a tour of the campus.

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Families enjoying the sights, sounds and tastes of the 31st International Festival

The Office of International Programs welcomes comments or contributions for Global Perspective. Please contact Rebecca Vincent at 704-687-2442 or by email at RVincen2@email.uncc.edu

For further information about the Office of International Programs please visit our Web site at www.uncc.edu/oip.

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