

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

An Office of International Programs Newsletter

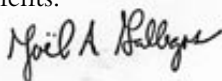
Executive Director's Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to share with you once again the Office of International Programs' on-line newsletter Global Perspective. Each time we publish a new newsletter it is our aim to highlight a different theme that is relevant to the campus community. While you will read about events and programs that we and the campus are currently working on, in this issue you will also note an emphasis on our faculty and their contributions to campus internationalization. We all know that the backbone of any college or university is the faculty and we are so fortunate to collaborate with such an impressive group of dedicated and enthusiastic individuals who support and assist us in a variety of ways with campus internationalization.

Whether leading an education abroad program, presenting an international topic at a brown bag lunch, or serving on a committee, all faculty are invited to participate in making our community a truly global campus. You will see several articles and updates either from or about faculty that provide you with some insight into various projects and programs with an international theme.

We hope that you not only enjoy our newsletter but also become aware of the possibilities of your involvement in making our University one that celebrates and embraces the global village. Once again, we welcome your suggestions, contributions, and announcements.



Joël A. Gallegos, *Executive Director*



In Dubrovnik, Croatia, children play soccer in a small courtyard. The peace sign serves as a reminder of Croatia's turbulent past.

New Director Named for Office of Education Abroad

Brad Sekulich has been named the new Director of Education Abroad. For the last three and a half years, Brad has served as the Assistant Director of Education Abroad and most recently as Interim Director. Before coming to UNC Charlotte, he was the Coordinator of Overseas Study at the University of Texas at Arlington. He has an MA in History from UNC Wilmington and he has studied abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia. We look forward to Brad working with the Education Abroad staff to put this opportunity in the forefront of more UNC Charlotte students' minds. ■



U.S. Senate Resolution Designates 2006 as "Year of Study Abroad"

On November 10, 2005, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution designating 2006 as the "Year of Study Abroad." The resolution, introduced by Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), supports initiatives to promote and expand study abroad opportunities. The resolution was also co-sponsored by Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), Sen. Norm Coleman (R-MN), Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI), Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS). The resolution encourages secondary schools, higher education institutions, businesses, and government programs to promote and expand study abroad opportunities; encourages Americans to support initiatives to promote and expand study abroad opportunities; and encourages the observation of the "Year of Study Abroad" with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities.

The Office of Education Abroad, within the Office of International Programs, plans

National Photo Contest Winner: Narayan Mahon

We're pleased to announce that a photo submitted to *Glimpse Magazine's* Photo Contest by Narayan Mahon, a senior majoring in International Studies, was selected as one of 12 winning photos displayed in the 2006 *Glimpse* Calendar!

See The Office of Education Abroad photo contest's winning entries on pages 3, 5

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New Faculty Development Opportunity: Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) International Seminars

The Office of International Programs (OIP) and the College of Arts and Sciences have partnered to offer an exciting professional development opportunity for faculty within the College of Arts and Sciences. CIEE offers short-term international seminars designed to provide faculty members with a new experience abroad that will result in incorporating an international dimension in course design, research, and teaching.



Further, participants are expected to return to campus to assist OIP in supporting the international mission of our campus. Recipients are awarded the cost of the seminar as well as the international flight. "I am delighted to support this initiative. In order to successfully incorporate an international dimension into campus life, it is imperative to develop opportunities for faculty that encourage and support their international interests", explains **Joël Gallegos, Executive Director of International Programs**. "This year, **Nancy Gutierrez, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences** and I have secured funding for two faculty to participate. Hopefully, in the future, we can sponsor additional programs designed to support faculty in this way." This year's recipients of the award are:

James Piazza, Assistant Professor of Political Science will participate in the seminar entitled "Civil Society, Politics and Religion in Turkey" from May 30-June 10, 2006.

José Manuel Batista, Assistant Professor of Spanish will participate in the seminar entitled "Economic Reform, Regional Integration, and Democratization in Chile and Argentina" from June 6-15, 2006.

For more information about this opportunity, faculty are encouraged to contact Dean Nancy Gutierrez or Joël Gallegos. ■



Dr. James Piazza,
Assistant Professor
Department of Political
Science, UNC Charlotte



Dr. José Manuel Batista,
Assistant Professor
Department of Languages
and Culture Studies
UNC Charlotte

Fulbright Scholar Program

The Traditional Fulbright Scholar Program sends 800 U.S. faculty and professionals abroad annually. Grantees lecture and conduct research in a wide spectrum of academic and professional fields in 140 countries.

UNC Charlotte is proud to have two faculty recipients for this year's award. **Judy Aulette**, associate professor with the Department of Sociology, received an extension of her award from the previous year to continue teaching and researching in South Africa; **Beth Whitaker**, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science will be teaching and conducting research in Kenya.

The Fulbright Distinguished Chairs program is among the most prestigious appointments granted through the Fulbright Scholar Program. Applicants are expected to be senior scholars with extensive teaching and publishing records. **Jerry Davila** of UNC Charlotte received this honor in American Studies for the 2005-2006 academic year. Davila is an assistant professor in the Department of History. He will be teaching a graduate seminar on race relations in Brazil and the United States in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Additionally, the Fulbright program offers awards in the following categories: Fulbright Senior Specialists, Fulbright International Education Administrators, and German Studies.

The Office of International Programs welcomes **Alexander Kremer**, Fulbright Scholar, as part of the Scholar-in-Residence program. He is an associate professor with the Department of Philosophy at the University of Szeged, Hungary. Dr. Kremer will be teaching with the Department of Philosophy at UNC Charlotte.

The Office of International Programs is committed to supporting UNC-Charlotte faculty interested in pursuing a Fulbright Award. For information regarding application details on any of the offered programs, please contact our office at 704-687-2442. ■

Office of Education Abroad Expands Services

For the Spring 2006 semester, the Office of Education Abroad expanded the general advising sessions to five days a week and up to fifteen students per session. Over 55 students have attended general advising so far this semester, an increase of 90% from this time last fall.

Senate Designates 2006 as Year of Study Abroad *continued from page 1*

to host several events in 2006 to celebrate the "Year of Study Abroad." Contact the Office of Education Abroad at 704-687-2464 or stop into 114 Denny Building for more information on study abroad opportunities for UNC Charlotte students and upcoming events, as well as information about developing faculty-led study abroad programs and setting up a classroom or organization presentation about education abroad. Please visit OEA's Web site at www.uncc.edu/edabroad. ■



**Office of
Education Abroad
Student Photo
Contest 2005:**

Category: People

First Place:
Narayan Mahon

Major: International
Studies

Location: Tajikistan

Caption: *A shy little girl in the streets of the 2500 year old city of Istaravshan. The orange coloring on her hands is hena, a makeup and decoration used throughout Central Asia.*

International Education Award Nominations

The Office of International Programs and the Mu Chapter of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars are proud to sponsor the Faculty International Education Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize a faculty member for outstanding contributions to the enhancement of the international education experience at UNC Charlotte. Areas of excellence may include: teaching, research, curriculum development, program development, grant writing, university service, and/or community service. The award will be announced at the annual International Education reception in April. A plaque listing by year the names of previous recipients of the Award will be prominently displayed in the Office of International Programs and the recipient will receive \$1,000.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2006 Faculty International Education Award. Nominated individuals must hold a full-time faculty appointment at UNC Charlotte and must have held the appointment for three years immediately preceding the year in which the award is made. Individuals may only receive the award once. Deans, chairs, and full-time administrators are not eligible. Formal letters of nomination may come from faculty, students, staff, alumni, or members of the community and may include supplemental supporting information. All nominated individuals will be notified of their nomination and invited to submit pertinent materials.

Previous recipients include: **Jeffrey Meyer** in 2005, **Lyman Johnson** in 2004, **C.D. Fernald** in 2003, **Robert Reimer** in 2002, **Alan Shao** in 2001, **Michael Doyle** in 2000, **Cynthia Combs** in 1999, **Nelson Benzing** in 1998, **Martha Miller** in 1997, **Ignatius Toner** in 1996, and **Harry Chernotsky** in 1995.

To nominate an outstanding faculty member for the International Education Award, send a formal letter of nomination to C.D. Fernald, Chair, International Education Award Committee, c/o Office of International Programs. Deadline for nominations is March 6, 2006. For more information contact Marian Beane, Director, International Student/Scholar Office at mebeane@email.uncc.edu. ■

International Travel Grant Program for Faculty

As part of its faculty development program, the Office of International Programs provides funding support for UNC Charlotte faculty traveling overseas to participate in conferences, research, and collaboration. Travel must be for the purpose of furthering the internationalization of UNC Charlotte. Each year an average of 55 faculty coming from all 7 colleges on campus are awarded an International Travel Grant generally ranging from \$350 - \$400. These grants are not intended to fully fund any trip but can be used to offset some expenses.

Faculty funded for the 2005-2006 fiscal year include:

Bruce Arrigo, Department of Criminal Justice, presented a paper and chaired a session at the American Society of Criminology Conference in Toronto; **Cemil Aydin**, Department of History, presented a paper at the UNESCO Symposium in Paris; **Jurgen Buchenau**, History, presented a paper at the Mexico en dos fases de la globalizacion conference in Berlin; **Yang Cao**, Sociology & Anthropology, presented a paper and discussed collaboration possibilities with faculty at the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University in Beijing; **Carlos Coria**, Languages & Culture Studies, presented a paper at the International Colloquium for Vernacular, Hispanic, American and Folklore Studies in Puebla, Mexico; **Karen Cox**, History, presented a paper at the Defeat & Memory conference in Edinburgh, Scotland; Rich

Furman, Social Work, conducted research in Costa Rica & Nicaragua; **Susan Gardner**, English, presented a paper at the Oxford Roundtable in Oxford, England; **Charles Hutchinson**, Middle, Secondary, & K-12 Education, presented a paper at the Oxford Roundtable, Oxford, England; **Janet Levy**, Sociology & Anthropology, presented a paper at the European Association of Archaeologists conference in Cork, Ireland; **Maryrica Lottman**, Languages & Culture Studies, presented a paper at the Congreso Internacional Lope de Vega conference in Barcelona; **Tanure Ojaide**, Africana Studies, conducted research in Jamaica; **Jim Oliver**, Biology, presented a paper at The Biology of Vibrios conference in Ghent, Belgium;

Erik Porfeli, Educational Leadership, presented a paper at the 9th European Congress of Psychology in Granada, Spain; **Cem Saydem**, Business Information Systems & Operations Management, presented a paper at the 10th EWGT Meeting & the 16th Mini EURO Conference in Poznan, Poland; **Dena Shenk**, Anthropology, presented a paper at the Gerontology & Human Development conference in Arenal, Costa Rica; and **Judith Sullivan**, Music, presented two papers at the First European Conference on the Developmental Psychology of Music in Jyväskylä, Finland.

For more information on requesting an International Travel Grant please see <http://www.uncc.edu/oip/faculty.htm#International%20Travel%20Grants>. ■

UNC Charlotte Faculty and Staff Participate in Korea Program

“Engineering Design in a Global Economy” is much more than a four-week intensive engineering design course for Korean students. It is a combination of classroom lectures, lab work and research, social events exploring the culture of Charlotte, teambuilding exercises and discussions, lessons in geo-political, economic, and cultural implications, and English language instruction. It is no wonder then that to make the program a success the Office of Intercultural Outreach Programs relies on the expertise and participation of 19 faculty and staff from UNC Charlotte and several community leaders to create a schedule that is relevant, engaging, and comprehensive.

The most recent program hosted 28 Korean students from Kyungpook National University in Taegu, Korea. Over the four-week curriculum, which ended February 3, 2006, students engaged in an intensive engineering design course, toured research labs and explored the library facility; they were introduced to research initiatives by current UNC Charlotte Department of Computer and Electrical Engineering faculty; students participated in English training courses, lectures on the ramifi-



Korean students and new friends take in a basketball game,



Kyungpook National University visitors participate in a team-building activity.

cations of globalization, teambuilding exercises and discussions, and Charlotte area excursions led by faculty and staff from UNC Charlotte; they were also shown opportunities for graduate study at UNC Charlotte and given an overview of the graduate admissions process. These were all made possible by the participation of faculty and staff at UNC Charlotte who shared knowledge and time in their area of expertise to contribute to a holistic learning experience for the Korean visitors.

The program has been in operation for six years; in that time eight programs have been developed and administered. Although the primary structure remains the same, the content changes regularly in response to students' needs and interests. The dynamic program has developed to reform naturally and thereby remain contemporary. UNC Charlotte faculty and staff committed to international education make this possible. ■

Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor Teaches Korean Students in Charlotte and Korea

For the past six years, approximately 28 Korean undergraduate students from Kyungpook National University in Taegu, Korea, have descended on the UNC Charlotte campus for an intense month of studying engineering design, the English language, and Charlotte culture, sponsored by the Office of Intercultural Outreach Programs. Dr. Mehdi Miri, Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has taught the engineering course each semester since 2003 when the students come to Charlotte. Since 2003 he has instructed almost 200 Korean undergraduate students in the elements of engineering design, and last summer he took the opportunity to teach a graduate course in Korea on USB design.

The Charlotte program is intense and challenging. Miri teaches the same material he would normally teach in a semes-

ter in four weeks. There are several small projects assigned throughout the course which develop and contribute to a final project and presentation. Over the past few years Miri has increased the level of difficulty of the projects in response to the increased level of competency demonstrated by the students. For the students, this sophomore-level course is their first exposure to engineering design concepts.

In addition to developing understanding of engineering design, the students are also encouraged to explore the ramifications of a globalized society. While the

assignments are balanced, each group is required to consider a different international market for their product. Miri has added this component to the courses he teaches here at UNC Charlotte as part of an effort to internationalize his own presentations.

After participating for several semesters with the program at UNC Charlotte, Miri went to Korea to teach a graduate course. He returned with a new appreciation of the Korean culture, a greater interest in promoting faculty exchanges, and prospects for research collaboration. He was welcomed graciously by his



Dr. Mehdi Miri, Associate Chair and Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

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Scholarship Program for International Study

The Office of Education Abroad encourages UNC Charlotte's best students to have an academic experience abroad by offering financial assistance. The Scholarship Program's goal is to assist these students in strengthening UNC Charlotte's mission to internationalize our student body. Through the Program, seven scholarship awards are available, ranging from \$1000-\$2000: The Halton Scholarship Program, the Harold Josephson Scholarship Program, the William Wilson Brown, Jr. Latin American Studies Scholarship Fund, the Charles E. Ziegler Sr. International Studies Scholarship, the Karl & Anna Ginter Foundation Fund, the Nell & Fred Figge Scholarship, and the Robert J. Mundt Memorial Scholarship.

Award recipients in 2005 include Jessica Alps, Lindsay Cobb, Kristin Connor, Brent Daugherty, Jenny Everett, Eric Gonzalez, Marissa Harpe, Stephanie Hodgins, John Hyatt, Theresa Isibor, Shaun Ketch, Jesse Kidd, Michele Moorrees, Vanessa Ogint, Julia Patton, Tia Perry, Lisa Philpotts, Thairath Pich, Kristen Pina, Crystal Roberts, Curry Sherrill, Jason Slatinsky, Justin Stritch, Diana Summers, Kristian DeShea Wagoner, Angela Wright, and Eugene Wright III. ■

Dr. Mehdi Miri *continued*

Korean hosts, introduced to spicy Korean food, and returned with a broader vision for research collaboration and faculty exchange. There are plans for future faculty exchanges between the two universities, future student exchanges at the undergraduate and graduate level, and Miri is developing a research proposal working with his colleagues in Korea.

Miri's vocal support of the successful program has encouraged other professors to consider teaching in Korea. He's glad to see the program succeed even though it means he'll have to wait longer for another opportunity to teach abroad. In the meantime, Miri continues to contribute to the Korea program at UNC Charlotte, and he incorporates international perspectives in his own courses on-campus. ■



Office of Education Abroad Student Photo Contest Photo Contest 2005
Category: Defining Moment • First Place: **Valerie Thompson** • Major: History and Africana Studies • Location: Mpumalanga, South Africa
Caption: *These children were born after the walls of Apartheid were torn down, however, their everyday lives are touched by its infamous legacy.*



Office of Education Abroad Student Photo Contest Photo Contest 2005
Category: Landscapes • First Place: **Christina Curcuru** • Major: Health Fitness • Location: Italy • Caption: *I found my love in Portofino!*

Office of Education Abroad Partners and Affiliates Visit in January

The Office of Education Abroad (OEA) hosted four partners and affiliates in January to continue developing opportunities for UNC Charlotte students to participate in an international experience. Dana Ott, Study Abroad Advisor at Lynn University, visited January 25. Lynn University offers study abroad opportunities to Ireland at their sister school, the American College Dublin.

Lisa Smoker, Programs Development Consultant at the Center for Academic Programs Abroad (CAPA), and Billy Chandler, Study Abroad Advisor for International Studies Abroad (ISA) vis-

ited the following day, January 26. CAPA coordinates the International Business in Paris and London Internship summer programs in conjunction with OEA. ISA is a study abroad provider with 11 destination countries. Dawn Koban, Outbound Programs Manager at Macquarie University in Sydney, visited January 31. UNC Charlotte has an exchange agreement with Macquarie University, and Dawn works with Macquarie students coming to UNC Charlotte for short-term programs, primarily in the area of business. ■

World Affairs Council of Charlotte: 10th Annual WorldQuest



On March 2, at the Hilton Center City Charlotte, the World Affairs Council of Charlotte (WACC) will continue its tradition of excellence by hosting the 10th Annual Charlotte WorldQuest trivia challenge. WorldQuest is an initiative of WACC that has since been implemented by World Affairs Councils throughout the U.S.

Teams of up to eight members by individual or corporate association are invited to register by February 17 to challenge their knowledge

of international subjects in categories such as: Mountains and Rivers and Deserts, Oh My! (Geography), Rally 'Round the Flag (Famous Flags) and What's News (Current Events), among others. Prizes will be awarded.

For more information or to register, contact Heather McCaa at hmccaa@worldaffairscharlotte.org or 704-687-4485.



UNC Charlotte Urban Institute Hosts Latino Conference

The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute is hosting its First Annual Regional Issues Conference on April 24, 2006. The conference is entitled The Changing Face of the New South: Latinos in the Greater Charlotte Region. This day-long event will explore facets of Latino immigration and settlement in the Piedmont.

“We chose this topic for our inaugural conference because the mission of the Institute is to seek solutions to the economic, social, and environmental challenges facing our communities,” explained **Jeff Michael, Director of the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute**. “Given the dramatic growth of the Latino population in our region and the recent public policy discussions on this issue, we felt that this was a timely topic. It is our hope that this conference will create awareness, provide context, and foster dialogue.”

The conference will feature Roberto Suro, Executive Director of the Pew Hispanic Center, as the keynote speaker. Governor Juan Carlos Romero Hicks of Guanajuato,

Mexico is the invited luncheon speaker. The conference will include highlights of a recent Mecklenburg County Latino Community Needs Assessment, and will feature panel discussions on the opportunities and challenges associated with the rapid in-migration. Panels will focus on education, health and human services, entrepreneurship and the Hispanic consumer market, immigration and employment, relations between the African-American and Latino communities, as well as housing, planning, and neighborhood development.

This event will be held at the UNC Charlotte Barnhardt Student Activity Center and is open to the public. Seating is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Conference registration prior to April 1st is \$35 per person (\$15 for students) and includes lunch. Need-based conference scholarships are available. For more information or to register for the conference, please contact Jana Harrison at the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, 704-687-2307 or jharriso@email.uncc.edu. ■

International Women's Day Celebration

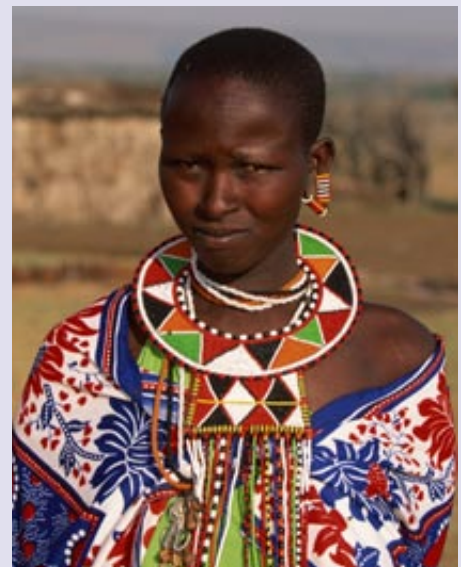
The Office of International Programs cordially invites members of the UNC Charlotte campus community to celebrate International Women's Day on Thursday, March 23rd, 2006 from 4–6 pm in Salons A & B of the Barnhardt Student Activity Center. This celebration will include a reception recognizing individuals involved in international and local women's issues and special performances from the Department of Music at UNC Charlotte.

You are also invited to nominate someone who has made an impact on the lives of women locally and globally to be recognized and celebrated on this special day. No accomplishment is too small, no experience insignificant. Nomination forms can be found at <http://www.issu.uncc.edu/nominationform.htm>. Deadline is March 1.

Please take the time to nominate those whose everyday actions deserve distinction.

Nominees can be:

- an international or U.S. American woman in the UNC Charlotte campus community with international interests or whose achievements and accomplishments deserve recognition
 - a student focusing on global women's issues
 - a UNC Charlotte faculty, staff, or community member who works with international women or on global women's issues.
- The purpose of this celebration and these nominations is to acknowledge that our campus community is filled with local women who embody the richness of internationalism and we would like to recognize them for their contributions to UNC Charlotte and the world. ■



UNC Charlotte Faculty to Present for Great Decisions Lecture Series

For the past fifty-two years the Foreign Policy Association, headquartered in New York, has offered a program designed to bring the expertise of outstanding scholars and practitioners of international affairs to the American public. Each year the Association identifies eight issues that combine immediate relevance with long-term questions about the direction and scope of American foreign policy. The editorial board that shapes the Great Decisions program has chosen eight timely topics for this year: the United Nations reform agenda; how to deal with Iran; the energy policy conundrum; Brazil; human rights in an age of terrorism; competition and cooperation between India and China; Turkey and its bid for mem-

bership in the European Community; and the relationship between pandemics and national security.

Beginning January 24 and continuing until February 28, six of these eight topics will be discussed every Tuesday sponsored by UNC Charlotte Office of International Programs and the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, and hosted by Charlotte Country Day School. UNC Charlotte faculty will present at each of the sessions to offer further insight on the topic of interest. Presenters include: **Dr. Cemil Aydin** discussing Turkey, **Dr. Cynthia Combs** discussing UN Reform, **Dr. Cheryl Brown** presenting China and India, **Dr. Eddy Souffrant** discussing Human Rights, **Dr. Jurgen Buchenau** presenting Brazil, and **Dr. William Brandon**

presenting Iran. **Ambassador Edward Brynn** will moderate the discussions.

These issues are presented in a format that combines a textbook offering informed analysis, a video-format panel discussion filmed in Washington, and a series of questions designed to guide the student to the central questions that underlay each topic. All eight issues are included in the textbook published by the Foreign Policy Association.

The UNC Charlotte and the greater Charlotte communities are invited to register. For further information or to register, contact Cheryl Ring in the Office of International Programs at UNC Charlotte, at 704-687-2464. ■

International Studies Update

Harry Chernotsky, Director

This semester the founding Director of International Studies, Professor Harry Chernotsky, is on-leave. In his absence, Dr. Garth Green, Lecturer in Anthropology and International Studies, is serving as Interim Director. The Program is pleased to announce a new course this semester, Religion and Culture in India, taught by Michael Korvink. Michael earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Religious Studies at UNC Charlotte and is interested in South Asian religion, South Asian archaeology, globalization, and nationalism.

On March 16-17, Dr. Diana Wells, the Co-President of Ashoka International, an organization dedicated to social entrepreneurship and the development of human capital in impoverished areas around the world, will visit campus and speak in the Introduction to International Studies class. Dr. Wells will also give a Brown Bag lunch talk to which all faculty and students are invited. Dr. Wells holds a doctorate in Anthropology from NYU, a B.A. in South Asian Studies from Brown, and was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct field research in Trinidad and Tobago. She teaches a class on Anthropology and Development at Georgetown University.

Finally, we are finalizing plans for our first summer study abroad program. The program will be for three weeks beginning May 19 and will be sponsored jointly with the Interdisciplinary Honors program and is open to all International Studies students. It will be based in Ludwigsburg, Germany (approximately a half hour from Stuttgart). Participants will have the opportunity to earn 6 credit hours – a 3 hour course focusing on German culture that will involve numerous site visits and field trips and a 3 hour course on the Future of the Atlantic Alliance. ■

53rd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies

UNC Charlotte, in collaboration with Davidson College and Wingate University, will be hosting the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies. The conference title is "Latin America in the Age of Globalization" and will be held **April 6-8**. For more information contact Jurgen Buchenau at 704-687-4635.

Latin American Studies Update

Jurgen Buchenau, Director

The Latin America Studies program continues to thrive at UNC Charlotte. The program integrates in-depth study of the history, culture, and society of Latin America and the Caribbean with extensive training in foreign languages, especially Spanish and Portuguese. We graduated our first three students in December 2005 (including one with curricular honors), and five more will graduate this May and August. This past year, many of our students participated in study-abroad programs, including our summer programs in Costa Rica and Mexico and an ISA program in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This semester, one student in our program is participating in the FIPSE-sponsored exchange with three Brazilian universities. An M.A. in Latin American Studies — the only one in the Virginia-Carolinas-Georgia region — is in the planning stages. Program faculty also participated in forming a new study-abroad option for UNC Charlotte students in Santiago, Dominican Republic. ■

BROWN BAG DISCUSSION

On March 1 at noon in Denny 119, Michael Eldridge, Lecturer of Philosophy will be presenting a brown bag discussion entitled: "American Agent, Hungarian Luck: What I learned during my Fulbright Semester at the University of Szeged."

These one-hour presentations promise to be very interesting and we encourage you to attend.

If you are engaged in research of an international nature and would like to make a brown bag presentation in the future, please contact Mehdi Miri, at miri@uncc.edu or Eddy Souffrant at esouffra@email.uncc.edu

International Student Enrollment, Spring 2006

For inquiring minds, the early figures on the total enrollment of international students at UNC Charlotte are now available. They show 594 students enrolled in the F-1 student visa category which is 23 more than were enrolled in the spring of 2005 but still significantly below the fall 2002 peak enrollment of 739.

The spring figures continue a trend of decreasing numbers at the undergraduate level with 23 fewer than in 2005. (221-06/244-05). At the graduate level there is a compensating increase enrollment of 34 (373-06; 339-05). Of the graduate students 225 are studying at the master's level and 148 are doctoral candidates.

Countries represented in the F-1 student enrollment are more than 60 with the overall enrollment of the 'top five' countries being: India (198), China (75), Japan (30), South Korea (27), Saudi Arabia (21). By academic level the 'top five' countries are:

Undergraduate: Japan (30), Saudi Arabia (21), South Korea (15) India (12), Taiwan (9)

Masters: India (167), China (11), Taiwan (6) United Kingdom (5), France (4)

Doctoral: China (64), India (31) South Korea (12) Iran (4), Russia (3)

UNC Charlotte also welcomes J-1 exchange students for one or two semesters of study each year. This spring there are 38 exchange students from a variety of European and Asian countries and representing 14 of our institutional exchange partners and programs. An additional 74 students in other non-resident visa categories are also enrolled. These are students whose main purpose for coming to the US is other than study but who are able to pursue full or part-time study.

Information provided by the International Student/Scholar Office. ■

Critical Issues for Academic Advisors of International Students on F-1 Visas

The International Student/Scholar Office will host two information sessions, one on February 9 and one on February 15, both at noon in Denny 119, for any faculty/staff member who advises F-1 international students. These identical sessions will:

- identify some of the critical issues specific to international students while studying at UNC Charlotte
- consider the role that academic advisors play in these issues
- discuss ways in which academic advisors can help international students

Please RSVP to dawilson@email.uncc.edu or 704-687-2410 and bring your lunch if you wish. Drinks will be provided.

Upcoming Events

February 7

Great Decisions: China and India – partners or competitors?

7:00–8:30 PM, Charlotte Country Day School/Lecture Hall
Registration is required; payment can be made at the door.

February 9

Information session for academic advisors of international students on F-1 visas

February 9, 12:00–1:00 PM, Denny 119

February 14

Great Decisions: Human Rights in the Age of Terrorism

7:00–8:30 PM, Charlotte Country Day School/Lecture Hall
Registration is required; payment can be made at the door.

February 15

Information session for academic advisors of international students on F-1 visas

12:00–1:00 PM, Denny 119

February 21

Great Decisions: Brazil

7:00–8:30 PM, Charlotte Country Day School/Lecture Hall
Registration is required; payment can be made at the door.

February 28

Great Decisions: Iran

7:00–8:30 PM, Charlotte Country Day School/Lecture Hall
Registration is required; payment can be made at the door.

March 1

Brown Bag Presentation by Michael Eldridge, Lecturer of Philosophy

12:00–1:00 PM, Denny 119

“American Agent, Hungarian Luck: What I learned about Hungary and being an American during my Fulbright semester at the University of Szeged.”

March 2

10th Annual WorldQuest 2006, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Charlotte

6:00 PM, Hilton Center City Charlotte

March 6

Deadline for Faculty International Education Award nominations

Office of International Programs

March 23

International Women's Day Celebration

4:00–6:00 PM, Barnhardt Student Activity Center, Salons A & B

April 4

Study Abroad Mini-Fair

10:00–2:30 PM, Around the Belk Tower

April 6–8

53rd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies

“Latin America in the Age of Globalization”

April 24

First Annual Regional Issues Conference hosted by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute

“The Changing Face of the New South: Latinos in the Greater Charlotte Region.”

UNC Charlotte Barnhardt Student Activity Center

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