



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

An Office of International Programs newsletter

Assistant Provost's Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

We are so pleased to bring you another issue of our quarterly newsletter. Of particular note this spring, OIP will welcome a new associate director to our team charged with developing assessment measures to determine the impact of campus internationalization as well as identifying additional ways in which we can support our faculty members pursuing international scholarship. Plans are also underway to launch our new website that we hope will more effectively highlight our services and programs to the campus community. Finally, I encourage all of you to participate in our open forums to be held over the next few weeks. It is our goal to strategize and consider the best ways in which we communicate to our stakeholders and share information with you. Please look for scheduled times in the Campus News for these focus groups. As always, we welcome your guidance, feedback, and ideas that develop our students' international perspectives which ultimately contribute to their role as global citizens.



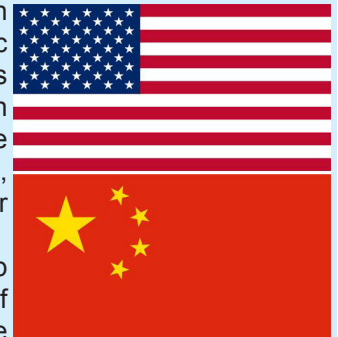
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Joel A. Gallegos

Belk College Hosts Xiamen University

On January 14th, the Belk College of Business and the Office of International Programs hosted five representatives from Xiamen University, including the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Mr. Daguang Wu. They met with various members of the university community, enjoyed lunch in the Student Union with members of the Belk College of Business Department of Finance and Mathematics, and ended the day with dinner hosted by Chancellor Dubois and Lisa Dubois.



Last fall, Xiamen University entered a partnership with the Belk College of Business Department of Finance and Mathematics to accept students into the Master of Science in Mathematics Program. Xiamen University, located in the Fugian province of Xiamen, is currently ranked 13th among top universities in the People's Republic of China. The university offers 82 undergraduate programs, 219 graduate programs, and 134 Ph.D. programs. Having spent the last year as a preparatory year, Xiamen University students will be entering their second year of the program when they arrive at UNC Charlotte this fall.



"Sometimes referred to as the Hawaii of China, the city of Xiamen is situated on an island widely recognized for its beautiful landscapes, subtropical weather, and geographical advantage as a port city," said Rick Conboy (Director, Global Business Studies Office in the Belk College). "Xiamen as a university is acknowledged as one of

approximately 20 top-tier schools in China. The Wang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics (WISE) at Xiamen University hires many Western faculty to teach courses in English. Our agreement with WISE is to bring students from Xiamen to study here, at the Belk College of Business."

WISE is a recent effort of the Ministry of Education of China and Xiamen University to build a first-class research institute and to facilitate domestic and international research and academic exchanges. Labor economics and related fields in public, educational, and health economics are among the priorities of the development strategy of WISE.

Students of WISE coming to UNC Charlotte will be integrated into the Masters of Science in Mathematical Finance program classes, as opposed to receiving separate instruction. They will attend as full-time students, arriving in July, beginning class work in August, and completing classes at the end of June the following year.

Website Launched for China Initiative

The China Initiative at UNC Charlotte has developed a website to further articulate the mission and objectives of furthering ties between China and the University. Hosted at <http://oip.uncc.edu/china/>, the website includes information related to current exchanges, research and collaborations and provides contact information for those who are interested in more information.

The China Initiative at UNC Charlotte has established as its goals:

- Promote interactive research between Chinese scholars and scholars at UNC Charlotte;
- Serve as an information clearinghouse for UNC Charlotte scholars seeking to develop relations with Chinese academia, and vice versa;
- Build and maintain connections involving North Carolina and Chinese governmental and private sector institutions;
- Provide student learning opportunities;
- Serve as a resource for Chinese-American cultural, educational, and socio-economic exchange in the Greater Charlotte area;
- Generate a broader interest among Chinese and U.S. citizens regarding their respective countries; and,
- Promote collaborative research initiatives between UNC Charlotte faculty and Chinese scholars and seek funding from respective national funding agencies and international organizations.

Invitation for Feedback to International Programs

The Office of International Programs (OIP) invites UNC Charlotte faculty and staff to participate in one of two open discussions regarding effective methods of information dissemination. During strategic planning discussions, OIP identified a need to better communicate available services and programs to the campus community. To do so, we need to hear from you.

Stop by for light refreshments and an opportunity to weigh in on how we can best support the work that you do and how to improve communication with faculty and staff regarding available international programs and services. A series of questions will be presented and discussions will be facilitated for these hour sessions.

Any member of the UNC Charlotte faculty or staff is welcome to participate. Join us on Monday, March 14 at 9:30 AM in CHHS 207 or on Tuesday, March 15 at 3:30 PM in CHHS 207. Please RSVP to mbzink@uncc.edu by Friday, March 11, 2011.

Recent Hire in Education Abroad to Support Faculty

The Office of Education Abroad welcomed Kimberly Kuhn to their staff as the Coordinator of Short-Term Programs at the end of the 2010 Fall Semester. Kuhn's role will be to work directly with faculty who are interested in taking students abroad on short-term, faculty-led programs. As the interest in spring break and summer programs has risen, by students and faculty alike, the demand for full-time, professional support has increased. Kuhn's position will fill an important role in facilitating faculty participation in study abroad and creating more opportunities for UNC Charlotte students to have an international experience outside of the U.S.



"I look forward to working with faculty members who are interested in developing their own short-term programs and am enthusiastic about the opportunity to facilitate this type of education abroad opportunity at UNC Charlotte," Kuhn said.

Prior to coming to UNC Charlotte, Kuhn worked in study abroad at Duke University and in international recruitment and marketing at the University of Pennsylvania. A North Carolina

native, she holds undergraduate degrees in International Studies and Spanish from UNC-Chapel Hill and a master's degree in higher education administration from the University of Pennsylvania. Her primary interests are study abroad program development and management, and the public purposes of study abroad and international education.

UNC Charlotte and AAC&U Address Global Learning

UNC Charlotte will participate in "General Education for a Global Century," a curriculum and faculty development project through the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). As one of 32 colleges and universities selected to participate, a working group through UNC Charlotte will work to more coherently integrate curricular designs that address contemporary, dynamic global issues that reach across disciplines.

At the national level, UNC Charlotte will be working with a Global Learning Leadership Council to: articulate essential global learning outcomes for all students; refine and disseminate models of global general education curricula that can be adapted across all institutional types; provide faculty development opportunities to assist college faculty in designing and teaching interdisciplinary, integrative courses that focus on real-world global issues; and, develop rubrics to assess global learning outcomes.

The working group at UNC Charlotte consists of Charles Brody (Sociology), Harry Chernotsky (Global, International and Area Studies), Akinwumi Ogundiran (Africana Studies), Joël Gallegos (International Programs), Pilar Blitvich (English), Liz Fitzgerald (University College) and Tom Rogers (Africana Studies). John Smal (University College) is leading the initiative.

UNC Charlotte to Host Centennial Celebration of International Women's Day

On March 24th UNC Charlotte will host the Centennial Celebration of International Women's Day (IWD), the universal day that connects all women around the world and inspires them to achieve their full potential.



Recognized by the United Nations and celebrated annually since 1908, International Women's Day (March 8) is celebrated in different ways in many countries around the world. When women on all continents, divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate International Women's Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents 100 years of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development!

At UNC Charlotte, IWD has been celebrated annually since 2006 and has attracted hundreds of students, faculty, and staff who make an impact on the lives of women locally and globally. The event includes historical and cultural information sharing, performances and a special ceremony in which faculty, staff, and students who have been nominated are recognized for the contributions they make in our lives every day and who embody the richness of internationalism.

To review the nomination criteria and to nominate a faculty member, staff member or a student for recognition at this centennial celebration, go to <http://isso.uncc.edu/nominationform.htm>. The deadline is March 17, 2011.

The event is co-sponsored by the Office of International Programs and the Multicultural Resource Center and is open to everyone on campus. The celebration will take place on March 24, 2011, from 3:30-5:00 pm in the Student Union Multipurpose Room.

Annual Faculty and Student International Education Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2011 Faculty and Student International Education Awards. The deadline for nominations is Monday, March 14th.

The Faculty Award recognizes a faculty member for his/her 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. To be eligible for this award, individuals must hold a full-time faculty appointment at UNC Charlotte and must have held this appointment for at least three years. Individuals may receive the award only once. Deans, chairs, and full-time administrators are not eligible.

Letters of nomination may come from faculty, students, staff, alumni, or members of the community and can be supplemented by additional supportive information. Letters of nomination should be sent to Judy Aulette, International Education Award Committee, c/o Office of International Programs.

The Student Award recognizes outstanding contributions and involvement in international programs and studies at UNC Charlotte. Eligibility criteria include: enrollment in a full-time degree granting program at the junior level undergraduates and in the second semester of study for graduates; 3.0 GPA for undergraduates and 3.5 for graduates; significant involvement in academic, service and/or co-curricular activities with an international focus. A student may receive the award only once.

Nominations may come from any member of the University community and must include a nomination form and a letter stating the student's qualifications for the Award. A seconding letter from a University or non-University individual is encouraged but not required. Nomination forms can be obtained from the International Student and Scholar office.

For further information contact Marian Beane (Director, International Student and Scholar Office) at 7-7781 or by email at mebeane@uncc.edu.

From students studying abroad...

My favorite moment so far is...

...playing American Football in the snow.
Adam Watts, studying abroad at UNC Charlotte
Home University: Kingston University, UK

... the parties with our new international friends.
Ali Boucetta, studying abroad at UNC Charlotte
Home University: University of Limoges, France

... attending a church service at Westminster Abbey. the historic church is the destination wedding and burial spots for England's most famous and influential people. having the opportunity to walk into the same Abbey as Henry VIII, and Queen Elizabeth II leaves me with a surreal feeling. i had the best time there and its my favorite moment thus far!
Cathy Waters, studying abroad at Kingston University, UK
Home University: UNC Charlotte

...the picturesque view from campus overlooking the town of Canterbury. A huge field in front of the library provides the perfect vantage point of the Cathedral at the city's centre. At night the town is lit up and sparkles with the Cathedral jutting up like some ancient creature, it is literally breathtaking.
Tremaine Tillman, studying abroad at University of Kent - Canterbury, UK
Home University: UNC Charlotte

Student Receives Gilman Scholarship to study in Brazil

Daniel Gonzalez, a Latin American Studies major, will be traveling to Brazil on a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for \$5,000. The Gilman Scholarship was established under the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000 to support undergraduate study abroad. Scholarships are awarded to deserving students at two-year or four-year colleges or universities who are currently receiving funding through the Federal Pell Grant program.

While attending UNC Charlotte as a full-time undergraduate student and working sixty hours a week, Gonzalez considered the financial possibilities of studying abroad to be daunting. He applied, and his 4.0 GPA and clear academic goals made a favorable impression on the selection committee.

Originally from Costa Rica, Gonzalez is fluent in Spanish and will be studying in Brazil to learn Portuguese. As he applies for graduate school in the Latin American studies program at UNC Charlotte, he is optimistic that a comprehensive language background in Spanish, English and Portuguese will make him well situated to better understand the complexity of culture and history of the western hemisphere.

According to Gonzalez, "I was very lucky to be chosen as a recipient, and as a result I am currently embarked on a learning opportunity that will prove invaluable."

Students Study Shakespeare in England

Twelve students will participate in this spring's Shakespeare in England program, offered by the Office of Education Abroad in conjunction with the Shakespeare in Action Center. Following three weeks of on-campus study with Andrew Hartley (Dance and Theatre), students will complement their on-campus course by spending nine days over spring break in London and Stratford-upon-Avon, exploring the places that shaped William Shakespeare's personal and professional life.

Students will keep an online journal and upload photos while on the program. The journal will be available at www.cepa-europe.com/journal.html for faculty and staff to follow their experiences in the United Kingdom.

International Student Scholarships Announced

Beginning in the Spring 2011 semester, the International Student/Scholar Office will award two scholarships each year in recognition of the contributions that international students make to the UNC Charlotte campus community.

The Morrow Scholarship Program is named after a former UNC Charlotte employee whose kindness made an impact on a former international student. It is intended for a UNC Charlotte international undergraduate student. The International Graduate Student Scholarship Program is intended for a UNC Charlotte international graduate student. Each award is \$1,000.

Selection will be based on academic performance, contributions to the campus community, a personal statement and letters of reference. Students who have met the academic qualifications have been notified and invited to submit their applications.

Mu Chapter of Phi Beta Delta Inducts New Members

During International Education Week 2010, the Mu Chapter of Phi Beta Delta (PBD), an Honor Society for International Scholars, inducted over fifty new members from UNC Charlotte. Faculty and students representing each college were recognized in a ceremony followed by a brief reception.



Faculty inductees included Claudia Avellaneda (Political Science); Maren Coffman (Nursing); Joyce Dalsheim (Global, International and Area Studies); Debarati Dutta (English); Ahmed El-Ghannam (Mechanical Engineering); Dennis Long (Social Work); Na Lu (Engineering Technology); and, Elena Platonova (Public Health Sciences).

In addition, each year PBD confers honorary membership to one community organization or individual who actively contributes to the international experience in Charlotte. This year, the Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency, Inc. was recognized for their growing and supportive involvement with the Charlotte refugee population. The keynote address was

provided by Ellen Dubin, Director of the Agency, and she accepted the honorary membership on behalf of the Agency.

Phi Beta Delta has as its purpose the recognition of experience in the areas of international education exchange and/or international scholarship. It also serves as a means for encouraging interdisciplinary interchange and serves as a catalyst for developing a network among faculty, students and staff involved in international endeavors.

Australian Students Come to UNC Charlotte

Seventeen students from universities across Australia participated in a three-week program, "Teacher Education and Practice Program," hosted by UNC Charlotte's Intercultural Outreach Programs. The students were pre-service teachers completing their Bachelor's degree in Education.

The program provided the students with insight into both theoretical and practical aspects of the U.S. education system with the primary goals of developing their awareness and skills related to the issues, terminology, teaching methods and techniques employed in the U.S. education system. The program offered academic classes with UNC Charlotte's College of Education faculty on topics ranging from urban education to classroom assessment. These classes also highlighted current educational issues, innovative teaching methods and new instructional technologies.

In addition to the academic lectures, visits to a variety of local schools provided a comprehensive overview of the academic landscape in Charlotte, North Carolina. The group visited a wide range of schools including public elementary and high schools, private, charter and magnet schools throughout the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area.



"The school visits and university classes have all been very interesting and informative," remarked one student. "I know that I have learned so much that I will be taking back to Australia and incorporating into my teaching and classrooms."

Participants also spent the final week of the program as intern in a mentor teacher's classroom at Carolina International School, a local public charter school, observing and participating in all facets of the professional responsibilities of a teacher. As the culmination of the program, the students taught a lesson on Australian culture to students in the mentor teacher's classroom.

In addition to the academic component of the program, the students also had opportunities throughout the program to interact with the campus community through various cultural and recreational activities. The program ran January 16- February 5, 2011.

This program was directed by Susan Lambert and coordinated by Maureen White and Jessica Wilkinson in the Office of International Programs at UNC Charlotte.

Ambassadors Speak

On Thursday, January 20, UNC Charlotte had the unique opportunity to hear from two Ambassadors to the United States. Hosted by the Allegro Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to serving children with disabilities, Ambassador Gilles Noghès of Monaco and Ambassador Luis Gallegos of Ecuador gave brief glimpses into the political, social and economic aspects of their respective countries and received questions from the audience of over sixty faculty and students.

Ambassador Noghès went beyond the glitzy stereotypes of Monaco to discuss the realities of living in the second smallest state in the world, their government and many of the concerns of the country. He answered questions relating to Monaco's involvement in non-military functions of NATO, their aid commitments to post-earthquake reconstruction in Haiti and Pakistan and their tax policies on foreign business.

Ambassador Gallegos gave a direct and forthright presentation on the inter-relatedness of the United States and Ecuador on matters of the drug trade and agriculture and challenged Americans to be more discerning in their consumption of media information.

Questions directed to Ambassador Gallegos reflected these topics and comments appreciated his candor throughout his presentation.

The event was co-sponsored by the Office of International Programs and the Department of Global, International and Area Studies (GIAS). Harry Chernotsky (GIAS) facilitated the hour-long program.



Upcoming Events

Monday, March 14

Faculty drop in session for OIP QEP focus group
CHHS 207, 9:30-10:30 am

Tuesday, March 15

Faculty drop in session for OIP QEP focus group
CHHS 207, 3:30-4:30 PM

Wednesday, March 16

Global Perspectives Luncheon Presentation
Ahmed El-Ghannam, Department of Mechanical Engineering, "Tissue Engineering: The Secret is in the Desert Sand"
CHHS 207, 12:30-1:30 PM

Thursday, March 17

African Studies Academy presents David Mwambari, Rwandan Genocide survivor and Sanejo co-founder on "The Role of African Youth in Post-Conflict Reconstruction"
Barnard 244, 3:30-5:00 PM

Thursday, March 17

International Coffee Hour
Prospector Cafeteria, 4:00-6:00 am

Thursday, March 24

International Womens' Day
Student Union Multipurpose Room, 3:30-5:00 PM

Wednesday, April 6

Study Abroad Fair
Between College of Education & College of Health & Human Services Buildings,
9:00 am-3:00 PM

Wednesday, April 6

African Studies Academy presents Guy Martin, Professor of Political Science, Winston-Salem State University on "The Post-Electoral Crisis in Cote d'Ivoire: A Crisis of Legitimacy"
Barnard 244, 3:30-5:00 PM

Thursday, April 7

International Coffee Hour
Prospector Cafeteria, 4:00-6:00 am

Tuesday, April 12

Young Professionals International Career Panel
Location TBA, 3:30-4:45 PM

Wednesday, April 13

2011 International Education Awards Reception
TBA, 3:30-5:00 PM

Thursday, April 21

International Coffee Hour
Prospector Cafeteria, 4:00-6:00 am

Thursday, April 28

African Studies Academy presents Nathan Plageman, Assistant Professor of History, Wake Forest University on "The Friction on the Dance Floor: Contesting Popular Music and Power in Post-War Accra, 1945-1960"
Barnard 244, 3:30-5:00 PM

Monday, May 2 - Saturday, May 14

Education Abroad Photo Exhibit Display
Student Union Art Gallery

Tuesday, May 3

Education Abroad Photo Exhibit Opening

Desperation and Hope: Student Spends Month in Haiti

By Addison Hodge

Originally published in the Winter 2011 issue of Exchange, the magazine of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

I spent this past July living and working in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. My days in Haiti can be divided into “before and after” my fellow UNC Charlotte Model United Nations teammates’ arrival. Fresh off a winning season in Model UN international competitions, we decided we wanted to put the principles of our club into action: we embarked on a mission trip to Haiti.

On my second day in Haiti, I visited for the first time the Good Samaritan Orphanage, where the team and I would be working. The orphanage is located off a dust-filled, bumpy road in Port-au-Prince, and, as of July 2010, it was home to 93 children. The scene at the orphanage was one of great need. The four caretakers worked around the clock washing clothes, cooking or tending to a child’s need. Most of the children had worms; some also had malaria, anemia or a host of other diseases. After that first visit, I spoke with the team back in Charlotte, and it was difficult to describe the situation.

On my fifteenth day in Haiti, the team arrived. We had two primary objectives: a physical infrastructure project and a social infrastructure project. The physical project focused on building a raised latrine system along with three private showers since their old system was within ten feet of their water source and threatened contamination. Our social project consisted of teaching different skills to the children every day — basic hygiene, arts and crafts, and English language classes. We saw that the hygiene and English classes were a great success as the children started to wash their hands before meals and constantly wanted to speak and learn English. We accomplished much, but there is still so much to be done.

The teams’ fourth day was the most difficult. A six-month-old girl, who had been suffering from malaria, died. That moment, more than any other in Haiti, showed us the reality that engulfs the country. When an infant dies from preventable and easily curable causes, there is something fundamentally wrong. We were frustrated that we could not do anything. For me, the death of the child personalized the word “indifference.” Perhaps the saddest part was that the infant girl was in a deadlocked adoption process. A Spanish couple had been in Haiti waiting to adopt her, but because she did not have a birth certificate, the Haitian government would not approve the adoption. Technically, on paper, she did not exist.

As the trip came to a close, I reflected on how I had imagined the trip before I had arrived. Everything I had read about Haiti in preparation for the trip was negative. What the media often left out is that the people are amazingly strong willed, eager to learn, and have an overall constant drive in pursuit of the betterment of themselves and society. As much gloom, destruction and extreme poverty that exists in Haiti, there is also a sense of hope that permeates throughout. Even with all the destitution at the orphanage, the children still smiled, played and were excited to see a new face.

Soongsil University Students Come to UNC Charlotte

Intercultural Outreach Programs welcomed eight undergraduate students from Soongsil University in South Korea to participate in the English Language and American Culture Institute, January 30 to February 23, 2011.

The English Language and American Culture Institute includes English language classes with a focus on American culture and history, English communication skills and pronunciation, TOEFL and TOEIC preparation, and teamwork skills.



The students also visited a variety of museums and organizations in Charlotte and utilized the skills learned in their English class, gained a better understanding of the different aspects of American culture and interacted with Americans. The group visited some of Charlotte’s most popular attractions such as the Levine Museum of the New South, the Mint Museum of Art, the Charlotte Motor Speedway, and Discovery Place.

In addition to the academic component of the program, the students also had opportunities to interact with the campus community through various cultural and recreational activities. Participants spent the last three days of the program in Washington D.C. visiting museums, monuments, and popular attractions.

This program was directed by Susan Lambert and coordinated by Maureen White and Jessica Wilkinson in the Office of International Programs at UNC Charlotte.



Australian students learn about American education system at Kannapolis schools

Article originally published in the Independent Tribune on January 21, 2011

Written by Jessica Groover

Before Thursday, some students at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School said what they knew about Australia was that there were lots of kangaroos, beaches and movies filmed there. During school yesterday, some learned that the country is currently in its summer season, it takes about a day to fly there from the U.S., and the top 10 poisonous snakes in the world are found there, among other things.

Students from Woodrow Wilson were able to meet some of the 17 Australian college students who visited the school on Thursday. The students from Australia arrived at University of North Carolina Charlotte on Sunday, to participate in the Teacher Education and Practice program there.

The college students are all education majors from universities in Australia, and will be here for the practice program until Feb. 5. The program gives them insight about American education through visits to local schools, courses at UNC and a week of interning in classrooms.

Woodrow Wilson is one of the schools students visited.

The Australians spent Thursday morning touring the school, visiting classrooms and talking to students from each grade level. They were able to observe a typical day in the classrooms and ask and answer questions with the younger students. As some of them met with third-graders, the college students showed them where Australia was on a globe and asked what they knew about the country.

The elementary students asked them about how warm it gets there, what kinds of food, animals, sports they have, and if they had ever seen the outback.

The students from Australia laughed. "It's hot and dry (in the outback)," said Ashleigh Knight, a student at Victoria University in Australia.

It was not the oddest question the Australian students received. They had also been asked what language they spoke, in addition to the common ones, like what sports are played in their country.

When the college students were telling the children about the sports in Australia, Sarah Quinsee and Candice Collins decided to demonstrate how the game cricket is played. They told the students that gaming systems like PlayStation and movies are released later in Australia than they are in the U.S., so they have to wait for them.

The elementary students also asked what holidays they celebrated in Australia, and found out that the new year begins and is celebrated 15 hours before it is here. "That's one thing we get before you," Collins said.

The college students asked the younger ones who had heard about the recent flooding in Australia, and many raised their hands that they had.

Principal David Fleischmann said the visit was a way for his students to learn what life is like in Australia. "It's a great way for our students to experience another culture," Fleischmann said. "It broadens our students' knowledge."

The college students were also able to broaden their own knowledge and learn what education is like in the U.S. "It's very organized and structured," said Rebecca Singleton, a student at Griffith University in Australia. "Students know what they're doing."

Griffith University student Kerrie Moore noticed that learning here took place more often indoors, while Collins said that, in Australia, students do not eat in cafeterias and bring their lunches instead. She and the other college students were excited to see the cafeteria at Woodrow Wilson. "It's so typically American, like in the movies," Singleton said. "You get the milk and the tray." "We don't have that sort of thing," Collins said.

During their visit, she and the other college students also taught the younger students an Australian cheer used at sporting events, visited pre-kindergarten classrooms and played with students on the playground.

In addition to seeing how the education system is, the students also observed how friendly people have been here. "I love the positivity," Moore said. "Everyone's been very welcoming and interested in our country." Griffith University student Chloe Morey agreed. "These people have manners," Morey said. "It's a beautiful town."

Morey was so impressed with the area that she plans on coming to UNCC to earn her master's degree. "I've fallen in love with this place," Morey said. "I'll be back."



International Exchange Students Reflect on First Weeks

Four students, two international students studying at UNC Charlotte and two UNC Charlotte students studying abroad, were asked to share some quick reflections on the first few weeks on their host campuses. Participants included the following: Tremaine Tillman is a UNC Charlotte student studying at the University of Kent-Canterbury in the United Kingdom; Cathy Waters is a UNC Charlotte student studying at Kingston University in the United Kingdom; Ali Boucetta is a student from the University of Limoges in France who is studying at UNC Charlotte; Adam Watts is a student from Kingston University in the United Kingdom who is studying at UNC Charlotte.

Weather is often the source of immediate distinction between home and host campuses. The UNC Charlotte students had similar responses but had not let weather conditions dampen their spirits. According to Tillman, "The weather here is cold and wet with little sun...I'm anxiously looking forward to summer." Waters confirmed with "...chilly but not rainy." Ironically, Watts an-

swered a question regarding his favorite moment so far as "playing American Football in the snow" and then followed up with his synopsis on the weather in Charlotte as "so much better than back home!" Whether snow in Charlotte trumps chilly and wet in London remains to be conclusively polled, but Boucetta summed up his perspective on Charlotte weather with a balanced assessment: "The weather here is almost like in Ireland. You never know if it is going to be warm or cold."

Weather, good or bad, has not restrained any of the students in exploring the local area and enjoying the various opportunities offered on their campuses. Boucetta has quickly made new international friends, Waters ranked attending a church service at Westminster Abbey as her favorite moment and Tillman experiences his "favorite moment" repeatedly as he reflects on "the picturesque view from campus overlooking the town of Canterbury. A huge field in front of the library provides the perfect vantage point of the Cathedral at the city's centre. At night, the town is lit up and sparkles with the Cathedral jutting up like

some ancient creature, it is literally breathtaking."

Snapshots of cultural appreciation pair well with culinary exploration. Quick reflections on "most favorite" and "least favorite" foods reflected some common answers and a couple surprises. Junk food and cheeseburgers ("I eat way too many," according to Watts) were on the list of "least favorite foods" at UNC Charlotte, while local produce (Boucetta) and Apple and Cinnamon Cheerios (Watts) made the list of "most favorites." In the United Kingdom fresh oysters (Tillman) "pried open by the fisherman himself" were tasty and memorable, while Waters preferred classic fish and chips while ranking roast pork as a least favorite dish.

In the end, the aim of international exchange is not to see nice places and explore different foods, but it is to learn and broaden one's mind. Even in just a few weeks of classes and intercultural connections, the students reported stimulating academic environments and welcoming openness at their host institutions. Boucetta described his classes as "En-

joyable – lots of interaction between professor and students"; Tillman, across the Atlantic Ocean, appreciated a different approach to learning, "The emphasis on independent study makes me so much more curious and able to learn...outside of class I have found myself delving deeper into subjects than I would probably ever venture in a classroom." When asked to reflect on what surprised them the most, Waters enthusiastically referred to the British people: "When I am in class with them they come over and ask me how I am doing and they invite me to hang with them after class. They are just such wonderful kind-hearted people!" Watts likewise appreciated his American hosts as the most surprising part of his visit: "How nice everyone is! Americans are supposed to be annoying!"

Glimpsing into comparative experiences enriches our understanding of the value of international exchange. Certainly, students will comment most freely on the immediate and noticeable aspects of culture during their initial weeks, but experience suggests that the end result will be challenged minds and a broader appreciation of life's global context. As Tillman concluded his remarks on what surprised him the most, he noted: "I think all of this is telling of something really new and different that is the uprising of a special generation. A generation where trivial things such as race, gender and sexual preference are dismissed and the real issues that shape our lives are realized."

Great Decisions Lecture Series Concludes

The Great Decisions Lecture Series 2011, coordinated through the Office of International Programs and in collaboration with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, concluded on Tuesday, February 22. Six guest lecturers were invited from UNC Charlotte and other local area colleges and universities to present on topics of foreign policy significance at Charlotte Country Day School for six evenings in January and February.

Originally slated to begin on Tuesday, January 11, inclement weather forced a rescheduling and the later end date. Speakers included Elkhan Mehdiyev (Fulbright Scholar, Duke University) on "Crisis in the Caucasus"; Kenneth Menkhaus (Davidson College) on the "Horn of Africa"; Jim Walsh (UNC Charlotte) on "Global Governance"; Chris Van Aller (Winthrop University) on "Sanctions and Proliferation: North Korea and Iran"; Richard Buttimer (UNC Charlotte) on "Responding to the Financial Crisis"; and, Scott Denham (Davidson College) on "Germany Ascendant."

The lecture series is based on information and materials provided by the Foreign Policy Association.

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