



# GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

An Office of International Programs newsletter

## Assistant Provost's Welcome



The OIP has, once again, had an extremely dynamic year complete with numerous international visitors, record numbers of students abroad, and new staff to support our campus' growing interest in internationalization. Despite challenges in our current economic climate, many colleges and departments are more committed than ever before to ensuring that their students have international opportunities abroad or on campus that develop competencies preparing them for a career in a global context.

Most recently, OIP has hired a new associate director who will not only lead our office in developing an assessment strategy to determine the impact of internationalization on our campus, but will be developing a freshman seminar focused on campus internationalization and a Global Certificate program.

We are encouraged by our campus community and we look forward to undertaking these initiatives that will strengthen our ongoing commitment to developing a "Niner Global Citizenry." We wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to your active participation in our OIP endeavors next semester.

*Neil A. Pellegrino*

## 17th Annual International Education Reception Honors Jerry Davila and Qingli Meng

The 17th Annual International Education Reception was held on April 13, 2011. At the event, Jerry Davila (Department of History) and Qingli (Lilly) Meng (PhD candidate in Public Policy program) were recognized as the recipients of the 2011 International Education Awards for Faculty and Students respectively.



Jerry Davila joined the Department of History in 2002 and has played a pivotal role in the development of Latin American Studies here ever since. He has taught a full range of courses in the history department from LBST in General Education to more specialized undergraduate and graduate courses on Latin American, Brazilian, and Caribbean history as well as Latin American Studies. Davila is a distinguished international scholar who has published in Brazil and Europe in addition to every major Latin American specialist journal in the U.S.

Davila's work has provided more than eighty U.S. and Brazilian students the opportunity to study abroad. He has co-authored grants which have resulted in UNC Charlotte partnerships in Brazil; he served as Interim Director of Latin American Studies program from 2008-2009; and he currently holds the position of Secretary General for a Latin American History Organization made up of over 1,000 historians.

One of Davila's colleagues wrote, "Jerry does not merely teach our field, he recruits students to our field, sending many on to graduate programs. He is an exemplary teacher, a key to the success of both undergraduate and graduate levels of Latin American Studies on our campus."

This semester, Qingli (Lilly) Meng, along with her various duties working as a graduate student for Paul Friday (Criminal Justice), recently defended her dissertation for a Ph.D. in Public Policy. Meng has worked with Friday for the last two years and has been instrumental in the establishment of the Center for Justice Studies in China and in the development of the University's China Initiative on campus. Meng's knowledge about Chinese higher education and her connections to officials and administrators has proven to be a valuable asset in our efforts to make connections with universities in China.

Davila and Meng received plaques commemorating their recognition and a small stipend award. The faculty international education award is generously supported by the Belk College of Business and the Office of International Programs. The student international education award is supported by the Office of International Programs.

The International Education Reception was also an opportunity to say thank you to the many faculty, staff and students who contribute to the international experience at UNC Charlotte. It is co-sponsored by the Office of International Programs and UNC Charlotte's Mu Chapter of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars.

## OIP Welcomes new Associate Director

Join OIP in welcoming our new Associate Director, Dr. Christina Sanchez. Sanchez has worked as a full-time professional in Student and Academic Affairs for the past 14 years. While she has held a variety of positions within the field of higher education her work is unified by an emphasis in international initiatives.

Sanchez received her doctorate in Intercultural Communication at the University of New Mexico (2004); her master's degree is in College Student Personnel Administration from James Madison University (1996); and her bachelor's of Psychology and English Literature from the College of William and Mary (1993). She has taught courses in communication, sociology, business, and education.

Over the past few years, her work and personal interests have enabled her to travel to 28 different countries. She has lived in Japan and Spain as well as several places throughout the United States. In October 2006, Sanchez spent a month in Germany as a recipient of the U.S. Administrators in International Education Fulbright Program.

At UNC Charlotte, Sanchez looks forward to working with university partners to support the ongoing internationalization of campus. Initial areas of focus include the creation of a Fall 2011 International Enrichment freshman seminar, developing an International Certificate program, assisting with the University College Global General Education project, and exploration of institutional internationalization assessment.

Sanchez enjoys playing tennis, playing chess, traveling, reading, and eating international cuisine. Stop by CHHS 217 to introduce yourself or send her a greeting at [C.Sanchez@uncc.edu](mailto:C.Sanchez@uncc.edu).



## Coming soon: International Enrichment Seminar

The Office of International Programs is excited to launch a new first-year student seminar course focused on expanding students' understanding and awareness of the role of internationalization at UNC Charlotte and our international community in Charlotte.

The International Enrichment Seminar begins in Fall 2011. Participants will gather once a week for a 75 minute, one-credit-unit course. OIP hopes to provide five sections with 25 students in each. Our seminar members will engage in readings, listen to guest lectures, complete writing assignments, attend events on and off campus, reflect upon and increase their intercultural competence, and more. The seminar begins to address issues of our world's interconnectedness and provide students with the resources to further explore globally themed degree programs, education abroad opportunities, and Charlotte as a global community.

The design of the seminar aims to complement a broad range of introductory, internationally-themed courses. The OIP Associate Director, Dr. Christina Sanchez, will be lead on the course development. Please contact her at [c.sanchez@uncc.edu](mailto:c.sanchez@uncc.edu) or 7-5386 if you have recommendations or suggestions on opportunities to showcase your internationally-related programs/resources.



## New international programs website highlights opportunities, resources

The Office of International Programs' 2010-11 quality enhancement plan (QEP) is to increase the visibility of the opportunities and resources offered to the campus community. To achieve that goal, the office has redesigned the content and organization of its website. The new site is divided into three categories that target the needs of key campus constituencies:

- Opportunities and Services for Students: This student-oriented section describes a variety of opportunities for students to engage in international experiences both on campus and abroad. OIP officials hope this serves as a resource not only for students, but for student advisors as well
- Resources for Faculty and Staff: This section is focused on resources, funding, training programs and other opportunities for University faculty and staff
- Programs, Speakers and Events: A calendar of internationally oriented events (primarily on campus) is included in this section; it also provides information about key, recurring international programs sponsored or coordinated by OIP

E-mail feedback and comments about the site to [international@uncc.edu](mailto:international@uncc.edu).

## A Snapshot of the World

The campus community is invited to join us for the Second Annual Study Abroad Photo Exhibit in the Student Union Art Gallery from May 2 - 14, 2011. Approximately 500 students participated in study abroad opportunities during the 2009-2010 academic year. Destinations included Italy, China, Argentina, England, South Africa, Egypt, Japan and more.

Students who participated in an overseas experience submitted photos from their adventures abroad in four categories: Landscape, Portrait, Self-Portrait, and Defining Moment. Three winners and seven honorable mentions have been selected by the judges from each category for showcase at the exhibit.

A Grand Opening Reception was held on Tuesday, May 3 between 5-7pm. The Office of Education Abroad invites everyone to attend the exhibit and support Education Abroad and the students showcased.

Please direct questions about the exhibit to Lisa Nevalainen at [lisa.nevalainen@unc.edu](mailto:lisa.nevalainen@unc.edu).



### 2011-2012 Phi Beta Delta Executive Committee named

The following faculty, students and staff will serve as the 2011-12 Executive Committee of UNC Charlotte's Mu Chapter of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars. Diana Rowan (Social Work), President; Kunwar Singh (Geography), Vice President; Madeline Clark (Art History), Vice President; Maureen White (International Programs), Secretary; Harish Cherukuri (Mechanical Engineering), Member-at-large; Michael Thompson (Public Health Sciences), Member-at-large; and Sybil Huskey (Dance), Past President.

The Chapter is a charter member of the Honor Society that was founded in 1987. Membership is open to qualified UNC Charlotte faculty, staff and students in recognition of their contributions to the international experience. The Chapter hosts and co-sponsors a series of events throughout the year that recognizes and celebrates the international experience at UNC Charlotte. For more information contact President Diana Rowan or Chapter Coordinator Marian Beane. Visit us at [www.oip.unc.edu](http://www.oip.unc.edu).



## UNC Charlotte Hosts Delegation from Chinese Law School

Originally published in Campus News on April 4, 2011

Charlotte, NC, April 4, 2011. - Hosted by criminology professor Paul Friday and Qingli Meng of UNC Charlotte's Department of Criminal Justice China Center, a delegation of law professors and prosecutors from Southwest University of Political Science and Law (SWUPL) in Chongqing, China, will visit UNC Charlotte as part of a comprehensive training program for judges and prosecutors in juvenile justice.

UNC Charlotte signed an agreement with the Chinese law school in 2010 that enables both universities to collaborate in such areas as criminology, criminal law and criminal justice. Last year, they jointly sponsored in China an international conference on drugs and drug control.

"The purpose of this is to highlight to the Chinese how we respond to juvenile delinquency and juvenile drug addiction by using alternative measures to jail and a treatment court," said Friday, an internationally recognized scholar in criminal justice.

UNC Charlotte China Center is the only U.S.-China initiative that focuses specifically on social and criminal justice



research and exchange. SWUPL is considered the most prestigious criminal law school in China. More than 70 percent of all judges and prosecutors in China completed study at SWUPL.

China is in the process of major legal reform and they are looking to both Europe and the United States for models, Friday said.

Friday arranged for the group to meet senior officials in the Justice Department in Washington D.C., as well as the American Bar Association, which has a special initiative on the Rule of Law in China.

On Tuesday, April 5, the Chinese delegation will have a series of training seminars in Charlotte on the underlying values in the American criminal justice system and the structure of American courts.

During a visit to the UNC Charlotte campus, they will have lunch with Provost Joan Lorden and other UNC Charlotte administrators.

The group also plans to visit Charlotte Law School for seminars on juvenile justice, followed by a visit to Charlotte's drug court. On Wednesday, April 6, the National Drug Court Administration will come to Charlotte to give a half-day training on treatment courts.

The Chinese delegation includes Professor Sun Changyong, who also serves as vice president of SWUPL; Professor Long Zongzhi, who also is on the faculty at SWUPL and is president of the China Bar Association; Professor Li Changlin, who also serves as vice dean of SWUPL; and Xia Yang, a prosecutor who also is on the faculty at SWUPL.

### ***Current Events***

**Monday, May 2 - Saturday, May 14**  
Education Abroad Photo Exhibit Display  
Student Union Art Gallery

**Fall Semester 2011 - Put the dates on your calendar now!**

**International Welcome Party - August, 26, 2011**

**Fall Study Abroad Fair - September 14, 2011**

**International Festival - September 24, 2011**

**International Education Week - November 14 - 18, 2011**

## ISSO Awards First International Student Scholarships

The International Student/Scholar Office awarded its first scholarships to two international students in recognition of outstanding contributions made to the UNC Charlotte campus community. Each award is \$1,000.



The Morrow Scholarship for International Students is awarded to an international undergraduate student who holds at least a 3.0 GPA and junior or senior status. This year's winner is Jingyi Chen, a mathematics major from China whose activities and interests include the Dance and Theater Club, Math and Physics Club, Programs in Leadership and Organizational Training (PILOT), and the Liberal Arts & Sciences Learning Community. Chen has also studied abroad in Venice, Italy through the Harvard Summer School and is active with many volunteer organizations. She has a 3.9 GPA.

The Graduate Scholarship for International Students is awarded to an international graduate student who holds at least a 3.5 GPA and has been enrolled at UNC Charlotte for at least one semester. This year's winner is Aileen Lapitan, a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy who is from the Philippines. In addition to her research in the area of disaster risk mitigation, Lapitan also teaches an undergraduate course in comparative politics and has held multiple assistantships at UNC Charlotte. She is a former Treasurer of the

Graduate Public Policy Students' Association, the President of the International Campus Fellowship, a member of the American Evaluation Association and a member of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars. Lapitan has a 3.9 GPA.

## Cultural Training for UNC Charlotte NSF-PIRE Participants

This summer, four graduate students from the College of Computing and Informatics will conduct research abroad through the NSF Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) grant, "A Global Living Laboratory for Cyber Infrastructure Application Enablement." This project fosters international partnerships by supporting undergraduate and graduate student research experiences abroad.

The graduate students represent various fields and will be working on diverse projects. They will become part of a prestigious international research network focusing on using cyber infrastructure to solve challenging societal problems while training a generation of globally-oriented IT professionals who will become leaders in industry and academia.

Amanda Mostafavi will complete research on Music Information Retrieval at Pompeu Fabra University in Spain; Ted Carmichael

will focus on Complex Adaptive Systems modeling through the University of Valparaiso in Chile in addition to time spent in Argentina; Michael Whitney will return to Beijing where Microsoft has accepted him to focus on contextual language learning; and Hunter Hale will work at an industrial site outside of Lyon, France in Computational Geometry, AI Character Navigation, and Procedural City Generation.

To prepare them for their travels and their experiences in intercultural work and research environments, the Office of International Programs is providing a cultural preparation course and study abroad services for them. Susan Lambert, Director, Intercultural Outreach Programs, developed a cultural training course to cover the cultural values, underpinnings, and societal differences as well as professional culture and etiquette the students will encounter at their partner institutions.

Several UNC Charlotte faculty

and staff members including Dr. Thomas Plagwitz, Director of the Language Resource Center, have contributed their expertise to provide the students with knowledge and insight into the diverse languages and cultures this group will encounter. Lisa Nevalainen, Assistant Director of the Office of Education Abroad, is providing key study abroad administrative services and coordinating special sessions to connect the PIRE students together with returned study abroad students for discussions on issues related to cultural adjustment and culture shock.

Of his experience in China last year through the same grant funded opportunity, Michael Whitney, a graduate student in the Department of Software and Information Systems, said, "Because of the efforts of an incredible set of individuals, I have become much more confident in my abilities to culturally adapt and flourish in a setting so different from my own."

# UNC Charlotte honors local women on International Women's Day

On March 24th UNC Charlotte hosted 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.

This year's event featured a performance by the UNC Charlotte Women's Glee, directed by Sandy Holland (Music), and the reading of a document entitled, 'One Hundred Years from Now' by students Jaswinder Kaur and Jingjing Zhao. The document outlines numerous hopes for their great-granddaughters and for girls around the world one hundred years into the future.



Recognized this year were UNC Charlotte faculty/staff: Ingrid Bartsch (Women's & Gender Studies), Raquel Dailey (Housing & Residence Life), Susan Lambert (Intercultural Outreach Programs), Mina Masrourpour (Biology), Lillie McDuffie (Facilities Management), Chikako Mori (Languages & Culture Studies), Jill Morin (English Language Training Institute), Ashley Parker (Special Education & Child Development), Judith Rowles (Student Activities), Dena Shenk (Gerontology), Sherrie Smith (English Language Training Institute), and Maureen White (Intercultural Outreach Programs). UNC Charlotte students honored were: Kim Black (Psychology), Cara Burton (Management), Stephanie

Cellemme (Mechanical Engineering), Kerri Doyle (Curriculum & Instruction), Emma Foster (Social Work), Jeanine Gardner (School Counseling), Margaret Gunter (Mechanical Engineering), Katie Hadley (International Studies), Namina Kamara (Social Work), Lori Krzeszewski (Curriculum & Instruction), Erika Lee (Art), Cynthia MacCaully (Social Work), Jessica McDowell (Art), Melissa Siegel (Political Science & Sociology), Chalis Sledge (Communication Studies), Kayla Sutton (Communication Studies), ZuLing Tian (Business Administration), Sumida Urval (Biology), Jeanna Uscier (International Studies), Chu-Ping Wang (Accounting), Brandy Wright (Psychology) and Jingjing Zhao (Mathematics).

The event is co-sponsored by the Office of International Programs and the Multicultural Resource Center and is open to everyone on campus.



## Fulbright Student: From Ghana to UNC Charlotte

Irene Angbing came to the U.S. on a Fulbright Scholarship at the beginning of January from her home in Kumasi, Ghana. In two flights and nine hours she reached Charlotte, N.C. to begin a two-year Master's program at UNC Charlotte in Applied Statistics.

Her interest in science and math started much earlier in life. In primary school she missed only one day of classes but was disappointed in even that lapse of participation. In junior high her teachers noticed her aptitude for science and math and encouraged her to pursue the science option at the senior high school. She not only followed their advice for her high school focus but pursued her undergraduate degree in Mathematics as well. Her interest moved from learning about the process and rules of the field to better understanding how the principles could be applied in "real

life."

After a year of required national service, Angbing was hired to work with her former professors as a senior research assistant. When a Fulbright application form was made available to her by her Dean, her mentors encouraged her to apply. Unfamiliar with the program but interested in the opportunity, Angbing applied, went through several interviews and passed the requisite tests.

Following her acceptance to UNC Charlotte, similar to many people entering a new cultural environment, Angbing felt isolated and disconnected from her new community. To overcome this challenge she relied on her uncle's advice to ask for help.

Angbing reached out to Marian Beane, Director of the International Student/Scholar Office. With support, Angbing gradually discovered a sense of place at UNC Charlotte.

While she navigates the cultural transition of adjusting to life in another country, she brings with her a solid foundation in her field and anticipates a strong two years of intercultural stories to share and academic challenges to overcome.



## Triumphant Language Learners

The English Language Training Institute closed the Spring term with a record-breaking class of 181 students. The graduation ceremony included student speakers representing the various skill-level groupings. Attendees heard reflections about memorable cultural adjustment moments, special acknowledgements, appreciation for the dedicated ELTI instructors and staff, and recognition of student accomplishments.

One graduating student, Abdulmagsood Almisri, acknowledged the impact of his teachers' by quoting Celine Dion's famous song, Because You Loved Me. Many students spoke about their appreciation for the ELTI "family". Most recently, this family included students from 23 different countries. Saudi Arabia continues to provide the largest number of enrollees thanks to the Saudi government scholarship program.

Questions about ELTI can be directed to [elti@uncc.edu](mailto:elti@uncc.edu) or 704-687-7777.



## “Crossing Borders” Writing Contest Winners Announced

The 2011 student writing contest for “Crossing Borders” asked students to reflect on how their international experience affected their view of the world. Excerpts from winning papers are included below. Full readings can be found online at [www.uncc.edu/oip/pbd](http://www.uncc.edu/oip/pbd).

### **ELTI Winner: Aeshah Tukruni**, Level 6, from Saudi Arabia

“My dream has always been to come to the U.S. to complete my studies. Why? Because in my country there are not enough institutions of higher education so that students are often unable to finish advanced degrees. I wanted to study English from native speakers. I used to dream about America; sometimes I even imagined it as a different planet. Also, living in the U.S. is different than I expected. People are much more respectful, compassionate, and rule-abiding than I thought they would be, even though I only had movies and television to base my knowledge of America on beforehand.

“...[C]oming here to America I saw all of the activities and programs and it woke me up. I have become motivated; America makes me feel that I can do anything. I put my feet on the first step to reach my dream of helping people and teaching and protecting the environment. Living in the U.S. lets me feel free. I appreciate the U.S. highly because I feel my life will never be the same again. Living in the U.S. lets me think in positive ways and throw out the negative ways.”

Honorable mentions in the ELTI category: Nan Zhang & Yongming Cao

### **Undergraduate Winner: Amelia Craig**, U.S. student on her time in Guatemala

“I believe our perspectives change throughout our lives. How we view people, cultures and situations sometimes gradually or drastically change based on our experiences. One of these situations in my life was my first international experience. This experience changed my perspective about people, international culture and life.

“...I learned that everyone has something to offer. Because of this experience and trip I developed a great love for cultures and people all over the world. This has influenced my decision in international studies becoming my minor in college. I still have a strong desire to help others humanitarily and spiritually both abroad and in the states. People are people despite their economic situation. Life is a multitude of lessons. Though all cultures and people are different there will always be power in relationships.”

Honorable mentions in the Undergraduate category: Hannah Robinson & Helene Sovignet

### **Graduate Winner: Kaitlin M. Boyle**, U.S. student on her time in Norway

“Spending six weeks with students from Tanzania to Turkey, Iran to Austria, I feel that I have a greater understanding of not only politics and culture, but of the human condition. Many assumptions I'd had were shattered, as I found myself nodding in agreement with my Ethiopian roommate, and laughing knowingly as a Mexican man complained about machismo. Now when I watch the news and see floods in Pakistan, or read about domestic violence in Spain, I feel more connection and empathy as I recount my classmates' faces and stories. This summer made me feel like a global citizen for the first time. I not only learned to look outward, but inward as I simultaneously saw my privileges and disadvantages as an English-speaking, middle-class, white American woman. It made me grateful for my education and sheltered childhood, but made me humble in realizing the American way is not the best or only way. I found we can learn a lot from our global neighbors, and would be surprised at how much we have in common.”

Honorable mentions in the Graduate student category: Linda Atiase & Nikhil Padala

The “Crossing Borders” writing competition is a joint project of the Mu chapter of Phi Beta Delta and the International Club. It is made possible through the generous contributions of: the Chancellor's Office; Provost's Office; College of Arts and Architecture; College of Education; Department of Africana Studies; Department of Biology; Department of Computer Science; Department of Electrical Engineering; Department of English; Global Business Programs, Belk College of Business; Department of Global, International & Area Studies; Department of Languages & Culture Studies and Rick Lejk.





# Go Global with OIP

## OIP Staff Listing

### OIP Administration

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*Joël Gallegos*, Assistant Provost for International Programs

*Christina Sanchez*, Associate Director of International Programs

*Mary Zink*, Administrative Assistant

*Ben Farnham*, Business & Technology Manager

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*Cathy Thompson*, Accounting Technician

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*Rebecca Vincent*, Coordinator of International Initiatives

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*Maddy Baer*, International Initiatives Program Assistant

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### Office of Education Abroad

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*Brad Sekulich*, Director

*Lisa Baum Nevalainen*, Assistant Director

*Esther Hollington*, Administrative Coordinator

*Kimberly Kuhn*, Short Term Program Coordinator

*Angela Wright*, Lead Advisor

### Intercultural Outreach Programs

*Susan Lambert*, Director

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*Maureen White*, Assistant Director

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### International Student/Scholar Office

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*Marian Beane*, Director

*Denise Medeiros*, Assistant Director

*Chau Tran*, SEVIS Coordinator

*Debbie Wilson*, Administrative Assistant

### English Language Training Institute

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*Kelly Franklin*, Director

*Diane Hancock*, Support Services Coordinator

*Ana Houck*, Administrative Assistant

*Meriam Brown*, Coordinator of the International Instructor  
Language Support Program

### ELTI Faculty

*Denise Alvarez, Dominick Antonucci, Sara Bowers, Jacqueline Cervantes,  
Joseph Gardner, Kevin Gowan, Arnold Halperin, Allison Hase, Saima Khan,  
Leann Lowrey, Jeanne Malcolm, Jill Morin, Nancy Pfingstag, Michelle Plaisance,  
Kim Rodriguez, Rebekah Schlottman, Rosemary Schmid, Linda Scott,  
Sherrie Smith, Josiah Stroud, Allie Wall*



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