



## Welcome from Assistant Provost for International Programs



On behalf of the Office of International Programs (OIP), I would like to extend a warm yet belated welcome back to campus! We look forward to working with you over this academic year as we continue advancing the internationalization of UNC Charlotte. In addition to the many traditional services

and programs offered to the University for faculty, staff and students, we are planning a number of exciting events and initiatives this year and would be delighted for you to join us.

We continue to collaborate with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte (WACC) and will co-sponsor, once again, a wonderful speaker series held in conjunction with the Department of Global, International and Area Studies; we will sponsor an exciting International Education Week November 14-18; and, of course one of our University's oldest traditions, the annual International Festival on September 24, 2011 will be held in and around the Barnhardt Student Activity Center.

We are looking forward to working with our longtime supporters as well as with our new faculty and staff. In fact, we strongly encourage our new colleagues to join us in our programming and become involved in any way that you can. Now more than ever before, it is critical to educate our students to have an appreciation for their interconnectedness with the world around them. We welcome your thoughts, contributions, and involvement.

Have a wonderful academic year 2011-2012.

## UNC Charlotte International Expertise Database

The Office of International Programs (OIP) seeks to engage members of the campus community as participants for various international programming activities and OIP initiatives ranging from meetings with colleagues from our partner universities to assisting us in establishing new partnerships and study abroad opportunities with foreign institutions of higher education. To facilitate the process of identifying university faculty and staff who have the interest and expertise to participate in these initiatives, OIP created a database in 2010 to serve as a repository of faculty and staff knowledge about and interest in various foreign languages and cultures.

To date, 246 responses have been received from 79 Administrative Units, Departments, Colleges, and Divisions. Respondents indicated expertise in 44 languages, 100 countries, 7 world regions (i.e., Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America, and Oceania). Respondents also reported 161 partnerships with faculty or administrators in international institutions of higher education in 44 countries.

To gather information for this database, OIP distributed a survey questionnaire to all current UNC Charlotte faculty and EPA staff asking questions about expertise and interest in languages, geographic regions, international partnerships, and experience living abroad. The data have been used to create a Faculty and Staff International Expertise Database.

As a service to the campus, OIP also provides lists of persons with particular expertise, on request, to faculty and staff who are seeking research partners or program collaborators. To make a request or to learn more, contact Ben Farnham, OIP Business and Technology Manager, at [bfarnham@unc.edu](mailto:bfarnham@unc.edu).

The current database is a snapshot of campus expertise as of September 2010. The database will be updated in October 2011 with data from faculty and staff hired during the last year. Further, all faculty and staff who would like to be included in the database are welcome to request a copy of the expertise questionnaire at any time.

# International Festival: A Historical Perspective

*Reflections from OIP Program Assistant, Tamara Johnson, on her past experiences with and the development of the International Festival (I-Fest)*

I first attended the UNC Charlotte International Festival (I-Fest) as a little girl after having moved to North Carolina with my family in 1987. Never before had I encountered such an event. I remember being mesmerized by the vibrant silks embracing white tents pitched around the base of the Belk Tower, the intoxicating rhythms and movements of dances from around the world, and the sweet fragrance of jasmine rice and zesty spices that wafted on the crisp autumn breeze. I recall tasting the tangy goodness of dolmades for the first time, and being surrounded by the energetic buzz of people asking and answering questions about other countries. For me, I-Fest began a love affair with sights and sounds of far-away places, undoubtedly playing a role in the direction my life and academic research agenda. Now, I have the unique opportunity to revisit I-Fest on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

In preparing for the program, I spoke with I-Fest founder, Marian Bean. Beane, director of the International Student/Scholar Office in the Office of International Programs has been organizing I-Fest since its inception in 1975. She envisioned the festival as a platform to recognize and celebrate the ethnic diversity of UNC Charlotte's student body, as well as to raise the profile and highlight the contributions of the university's international student population. I-Fest began as a small event that took place in front of the library, but as the event grew in size and prominence, it traced a path around campus from the library, to Colvard, to the Belk Tower, finally settling at the Student Activity Center.

As campus and community interest and participation in I-Fest proliferated, the festival garnered the full support of many campus offices including the Student Union, the Student Activity Center, Facilities Management, Campus Police, and Chartwell's College and University Dining Services. I-Fest attracts over 700 enthusiastic volunteers



annually. According to Marian Beane, this year's I-Fest will include some of the popular cultural displays and activities of years past presented by both student and community groups. I-Fest passports, distributed to attendees of all ages, allow for unique, individual interactions between participants, and exchanges of cultural information.

This year's I-Fest will reflect the internationalization not only of UNC Charlotte, but of the wider Charlotte metropolitan area as well. In the 36 years since I-Fest's inception, the University has increased international student enrollment and attracted Fulbright and other esteemed scholars; students have ventured abroad to study; faculty members have received prestigious grants to conduct international research; and departments have strengthened global connections through curriculum development. Likewise, Charlotte's international demographic has proliferated; the city has attracted record numbers of international residents and businesses. It is within this context of global outreach and change that I look forward to re-acquainting my senses with the energy of the 36th annual I-Fest celebration at UNC Charlotte.

**THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL (I-Fest) is a celebration of people, places and culture vibrantly displayed through exhibition booths arranged in colorful marketplace style representing the cultures of over fifty nations. Art, crafts, costumes, food, music and dance combine to create the illusion of having traveled the globe in a day. Additional details available online at <http://ifest.uncc.edu>.**

## International Enrichment Seminar: A Step Toward the UNC Charlotte Global Certificate Program



Nearly 70 first-year students started the fall 2011 semester as members of the inaugural International Enrichment (IE) Seminar classes. The IE seminar classes are designed to promote early engagement with international experiences offered on campus, in Charlotte, and ultimately with our study abroad programs. The course incorporates experiential components with student exploration of global perspectives and intercultural sensitivity through three main segments: (1) exploring self as a cultural being, (2) discovering global connections through UNC Charlotte, and (3) investigating intercultural sensitivity.

As the first-step in exploring self as a cultural being, students participated in a “Stake Your Claim” exercise.

Instructors noted that, “The hope for every graduate from UNC Charlotte is to develop self-confidence, knowledge of personal identity, and academic competence that will permit one to proudly and boldly stake a claim and own it!” One student reflected by exploring the claim she is staking as a freshman (e.g., heritage, values, beliefs, culture) as it is connected to her name. She noted, “by understanding [who we are and] how we relate to others helps us to be more understanding with the people and the world around us.”

The Office of International Programs, in collaboration with the Department of Global, International and Area Studies as well as University College, seeks to identify additional strategies for connecting with students early and engaging them in exploration of international perspectives. From review of the field experience activities assigned for the IE seminar (see the sample syllabus online at <http://oip.uncc.edu/seminar.htm>), the lead IE seminar instructor, Dr. Christina Sanchez, has developed an initial framework for a UNC Charlotte Global Certificate Program. Additional ideas/suggestions/recommendations, academic department partnerships, and faculty contributors are all welcome! Contact Dr. Sanchez at [c.sanchez@uncc.edu](mailto:c.sanchez@uncc.edu) if you want more information about the class or wish to share input about the certificate.

## Fall 2011 International Speaker Series

The Office of International Programs, in collaboration with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, Atkins Library, and the department of Global, International, and Area Studies, is pleased to announce the fall lineup for the 4th annual International Speaker Series for UNC Charlotte.

First, former ambassador Edward Peck joins us on Tuesday, October 25, at 3:30pm in the Atkins Library Halton Reading Room. Peck is a retired career United States diplomat whose thirty-two years of service included: Chief of Mission in Baghdad during the Carter Administration and Deputy Director of the White House Task Force on Terrorism in the Reagan Administration. He was Deputy Director of Covert Intelligence Programs for the State Department, served as Foreign Service Officer in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt and was Ambassador in Mauritania. Peck currently provides consulting services to governments, businesses and educational institutions around the world.

Our second presenter, Robert Guest, presents on Friday, November 11 (time tba). Guest is the Economist’s business editor and an author. His latest work examines how migration makes the world wealthier and happier. Guest’s book, “Borderless Economics: Chinese Sea Turtles, Indian Fridges and the New Fruits of Global Capitalism”, leads the reader through 44 states and nearly 70 countries, observing how these networks create wealth, spread ideas and foster innovation.

Faculty members are encouraged to bring their

students to the presentations. The Office of International Programs is happy to make arrangements for extra credit attendance sign-in.

Lectures are free and open to the campus community. For more information, contact the Office of International Programs at [international@uncc.edu](mailto:international@uncc.edu) or call 704-687-7305. Visit <http://oip.uncc.edu/intlspeakers.htm> for updates.



**EDWARD PECK**  
**FORMER U.S.**  
**AMBASSADOR**

*Tuesday, October 25*  
*3:30 - 4:30 p.m.*  
*Atkins Library Halton*  
*Reading Room*



**ROBERT GUEST**  
**BUSINESS ECONOMIST**

*Friday, November 11*  
*Time TBA*  
*Atkins Library Halton*  
*Reading Room*

*Details at <http://oip.uncc.edu/intlspeakers.htm>*

# Office of Intercultural Outreach Pairs Community with Fulbright Grantees

Intercultural Outreach Programs (IOP) hosted 36 Fulbright grantees from 32 countries in August for a multi-faceted program to prepare the grantees for graduate programs at universities across the United States. Eleven UNC Charlotte faculty and staff who themselves were former recipients of a Fulbright grant interacted with the group to provide personal insight into the experience.

At the welcome event, among many of the faculty and former grantees sharing their own Fulbright experiences was Dr. Nabil Elias. Dr. Elias, originally from Egypt, shared how his time at the University of Minnesota as a Fulbright grantee presented many new opportunities for his future. Dr. Elias continued by affirming his belief in the world's youth scholars and in the 2011 Fulbright grantees; "I know you are capable. Don't have any doubt. You can make it. Your generation is one of the finest the world has ever seen."

In addition to Dr. Elias, ten current and former UNC Charlotte faculty and staff also shared information and advice on a range of issues with the 2011 Fulbright grantees at a panel discussion. Along with the former Fulbright grantees, 87 UNC Charlotte faculty, staff, students as well as community members participated in various ways to make the 2011 grantees' experience at UNC Charlotte a memorable one.

The group also benefitted from the perspective of current Fulbright grantees. They were able to meet two of the Fulbright-funded graduate students currently studying at UNC Charlotte, Dirk Feldrappe and Hanne Duindam. In a unique element of this year's program, the group enjoyed a virtual panel discussion with two current Fulbright grantees and participants of the 2010 Fulbright Pre-Academic Program hosted at UNC Charlotte. Esther Pang, a grantee from Panama studying Communications at Fordham University, and Denis Patane from Brazil, studying Film/Cinema Studies at Loyola Marymount University, shared insights with the group virtually on the academic, cultural, and social differences they have encountered while studying in the United States.

Prepared with newly acquired skills for academic and personal success at U.S. universities, the incoming Fulbright grantees provided everyone they met at UNC Charlotte with a rich cultural exchange opportunity from their respective 32 countries.

The Fulbright Pre-Academic Program was directed by Susan Lambert and coordinated by Anne Giles and Krystal Ostic in the Office of International Programs at UNC Charlotte. This year's Fulbright Pre-Academic Program was the third consecutive year as a cornerstone of Intercultural Outreach's efforts to highlight international awareness on the UNC Charlotte campus.



**Dr. Martha Miller,**  
*Professor Emeritus of Spanish,  
Department of Languages and Culture  
Studies*



**Dr. Gary Ferraro,**  
*Professor Emeritus, Department of  
Anthropology*



**Dr. Janet Levy,**  
*Chair and Associate Professor,  
Department of Anthropology*



**Ms. Denise Dwight Smith,**  
*Director, University Career Center*



**Dr. Bill Brandon,**  
*Metrolina Medical Foundation  
Distinguished Professor, Department of  
Political Science*



**Dr. Nabil Elias,**  
*Professor, Department of Accounting*



**Dr. Daniel Rabinovich,**  
*Professor, Department of Inorganic  
Chemistry*



**Dr. Beth Whitaker,**  
*Associate Professor, Department of  
Political Science*



**Dr. Paul Youngman,**  
*Associate Professor of German,  
Department of Languages and Culture  
Studies*



**Dr. David Goldfield,**  
*Professor, Department of History*

## Office of Education Abroad Helps Send Students Across the Globe

The Office of Education Abroad, in conjunction with a variety of Colleges throughout the University, administered sixteen faculty-led study abroad programs during the summer of 2011, sending nearly 200 UNC Charlotte students across the globe.

This summer's program offerings allowed students to study with their faculty members in diverse locations ranging from Europe to the Middle East to Asia. Faculty from the College of Arts + Architecture led programs in which students studied architecture in Spain, Portugal, France and Switzerland, as well as visual arts in London. The Belk College of Business allowed graduate students to study business practices in Germany and real estate development in Malaysia, while master's and doctoral students from the College of Education honed their counseling skills in Nicaragua. Faculty from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences also offered a wide array of summer programs. These programs allowed students the opportunity to further their study of languages in Costa Rica, China, and Germany; understand public relations and criminal justice in the United Kingdom; study art history in Greece and Turkey; and participate in an archeological dig in Israel. Students also expanded their learning beyond the classroom this summer and engaged in service learning opportunities with faculty in both the United Kingdom and Nicaragua.

## Learn About Faculty-Led Short Term Programs

Faculty-led study abroad programs, which are credit-bearing opportunities that range from ten days to eight weeks, play an important role in internationalization efforts at UNC Charlotte. Consistent with national trends, UNC Charlotte has seen significant growth in recent years in the number of students participating in faculty-led short-term programs abroad. Additionally, faculty interest in short-term programs abroad has risen substantially, with an increasing number of UNC Charlotte faculty members from a variety of academic disciplines working with the Office of Education Abroad to develop and lead programs abroad.

Each semester, the Office of Education Abroad holds informational workshops for faculty who are interested in learning how to develop short-term study abroad programs. This fall's workshop will be featured as one of the events during UNC Charlotte's celebration of International Education Week, November 14-18, 2011. Faculty members interested in learning more about developing a short-term program are invited to join staff from the Office of Education Abroad for this event to learn more about this exciting international opportunity. Please monitor the International Education Week schedule at <http://oip.uncc.edu/IntEdWk.htm> for updates in October.

## Campus Partnership Celebrates 30 Years

UNC Charlotte and the Paedagogische Hochschule Ludwigsburg (Ludwigsburg University of Education in Germany) celebrated 30 years of partnership in June 2011. This close collaboration began with one student and faculty language exchange opportunity in 1985; since then over 300 students have participated in exchange programs between the two institutions.

The UNC Charlotte-Ludwigsburg partnership has expanded to include collaborative projects of many types and with a particular focus on teacher education. Two groups of UNC Charlotte elementary education majors and faculty have studied at Ludwigsburg University of Education for a full semester to explore international teacher education. The third cohort of education majors will travel from UNC Charlotte to Ludwigsburg during the 2011 fall semester.

In addition to student exchange opportunities, strong faculty partnerships have developed. A series of faculty symposia began in 1995 and was designed to highlight and explore cross-cultural educational issues by alternating between Charlotte, North Carolina and Ludwigsburg, Germany for the symposia location. In June of 2011, Chancellor Philip L. Dubois, Assistant Provost for International Programs Joël Gallegos and Dean of the College of Education Mary Lynne Calhoun were able to join their academic counterparts and government representatives in Ludwigsburg to commemorate the 30 years of cooperation between universities.



# Delegation Visit from Kingston University



A delegation of 12 faculty and students from Kingston University in London, England, visited UNC Charlotte September 18-24, 2011. As follow-up to a recent Kingston delegation visit, this group explored student access and peer mentoring programs particularly focused on underrepresented students through discussions with UNC Charlotte faculty, staff and students involved in relevant support services. Another focus of the visit is on utilization of technology in the classroom and in field work. In addition to meetings with campus partners, the group was also on campus to experience Family Weekend and the 36<sup>th</sup> annual International Festival, Saturday, September 24.

Kingston University is one of UNC Charlotte's longest international exchange partners with programs and exchanges running for nearly thirty years. The delegation's visit was organized through Academic Services with support from Student Affairs and from the Office of International Programs. For more information, contact the Office of International Programs at [international@uncc.edu](mailto:international@uncc.edu).

## OIP Welcome Reception for New Faculty

The Office of International Programs welcomes all new faculty members to UNC Charlotte! All faculty members new to UNC Charlotte—including visiting scholars—to the New Faculty Wine and Cheese Reception, October 6, 2011, from 3:30pm-5:00pm in the Office of International Programs Reception Area (located outside Suite 256 on the 2nd floor of the College of Health and Human Services Building).

Remarks by the Assistant Provost for International Programs, Joël Gallegos, are scheduled for 4:00pm. Join us to network with colleagues, learn more about campus internationalization and meet the Office of International Programs staff. If you are able to attend, please RSVP by October 3, 2011 to Mary Zink at [mbzink@uncc.edu](mailto:mbzink@uncc.edu) or 687-7755.

## International Faculty of UNC Charlotte

International faculty and scholars at UNC Charlotte work across the full spectrum of academic departments and their perspectives contribute to the cultural diversity of our academic community and enhance the global education of our students.

The countries represented by our new international faculty include: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, South Korea, Turkey, and Venezuela.

All international faculty and internationally-minded UNC Charlotte community members are encouraged to share their information in the OIP International Expertise Database. (See page 1 for more details.)

## Assistant Professor of Social Work from Sweden to Visit

A visitor from Linneaus University in Sweden will visit UNC Charlotte campus from October 11 through 21, 2011. Assistant Professor of Social Work Ulrika Jarkstig Berggren will be hosted by the College of Health and Human Services as part of a grant-funded project to conduct a comparative analysis on how college students with different types of disabilities adapt to their learning environments and how they encounter stigma. The cross-cultural comparison will examine student perceptions in Sweden, Great Britain, the United States, and Czech

Republic.

Berggren plans to conduct interviews on campus with co-investigator Dr. Diana Rowan of the UNC Charlotte Department of Social Work. While here Berggren will deliver a number of lectures on topics including the health care system in Sweden, social welfare policies in Europe and interventions for people with disabilities related to mental illness. For more information on Berggren's public lectures, please contact Dr. Rowan at [drowan@uncc.edu](mailto:drowan@uncc.edu).

# Welcome to Two New Fulbright Graduate Students!

UNC Charlotte welcomes two graduate students selected through the Fulbright Foreign Student Program. Hanne Duindam from the Netherlands and Alexander Rani Suryandono from Indonesia join the four Fulbright grantees that entered UNC Charlotte in Fall 2010 from Bahrain, Ghana, Germany and Indonesia.

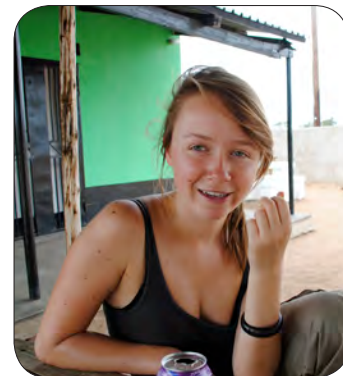
Hanne Duindam is from the Netherlands and is pursuing her M.A. in Clinical/Community Psychology. She says she applied for a Fulbright at UNC Charlotte to combine clinical psychology with a counseling therapy method for children: play therapy. "I specifically chose to come to UNC Charlotte" for her academic program. She elaborated stating that, "A unique aspect of my program at UNC Charlotte is that it has a community focus which is great because I am interested in developing and evaluating programs that promote the wellbeing of people in a society as well." Duindam hopes "to learn how to evaluate, implement, and possibly create empowerment programs for child victims of abuse and neglect" and plans to implement play therapy programs at the university level as well as through international aid organizations upon returning to the Netherlands.

Duindam had an opportunity to visit UNC Charlotte while studying in the United States during her undergraduate career. "After my visit, I knew this was the university I wanted to obtain my master's at," she says. "It just felt right."

Alexander Rani Suryandono, a graduate student in Architecture, is from Indonesia. Suryandono applied for the Fulbright to gain broader experience and perspective in the field. He plans to return to Indonesia to lecture in his field of study and to remain active in youth and professional organizations where he will share the experiences that he has had here in the United States.

Regarding UNC Charlotte, Suryandono remarked on the dedication of the faculty and staff and overall quality of the institution: "[UNC Charlotte] has everything to make bright students," he said. Suryandono remarked that his biggest surprise since arriving to Charlotte in August is that, "Americans are so nice and warm! They are very friendly. The lecturers and university staff are so kind and helpful."

In addition to hosting Fulbright students and scholars from abroad at UNC Charlotte, the university supports UNC Charlotte faculty interested in pursuing a Fulbright Award through the Traditional Fulbright Scholar Program. The Fulbright program sends 800 U.S. faculty and professionals abroad annually. Fulbright grantees lecture and conduct research in a wide spectrum of academic and professional fields in 140 countries. For information on these programs, see the Department of State website at <http://fulbright.state.gov/grants/scholar-program.html> or contact the Office of International Programs at [international@uncc.edu](mailto:international@uncc.edu).



## An Ongoing Legacy

*A career of hope*

*Forty years of commitment*

*Students transformed*

In recognition of 40 years of dedication to UNC Charlotte, the Office of International Programs honors the accomplishments of Marian Beane, director of the international student/scholar office. Joël Gallegos, assistant provost for international programs, shared the haiku above to commemorate her legacy at UNC Charlotte at a recent celebratory gathering.

## Successful Trends in UNC Charlotte International Student Conditional Admissions

For the Fall 2011 semester, 127 former or current English Language Training Institute (ELTI) students are enrolled in one or more undergraduate courses, representing nearly one-third of the entire undergraduate international student enrollment. (Advanced level ELTI students are permitted to take one undergraduate course concurrent with their ELTI coursework; generally, they then matriculate into full-time studies in their next semester). According to Kelly Franklin, director of ELTI, the growing percentage of the ELTI student body that matriculates into UNC Charlotte, mostly at undergraduate levels, reflects an interesting national higher education trend of enhancing international student enrollments through the use of conditional admissions policies in which an applicant's language proficiency can be demonstrated after review of their academic credentials.

This application and conditional admissions policy can serve as an effective international recruiting tool which bolsters student numbers especially from Saudi Arabia and China, two countries where it can be difficult for prospective students to obtain student visas or necessary funding without having been granted acceptance to university study. Conditional admission policies enable students to plan further ahead, and give them the chance to 'check out' Charlotte and our University by first coming for English studies then matriculating, if they wish, for further education. Enrollment indicates that a high number of international students are successful in ELTI and decide to stay on at UNC Charlotte.

Over the past few years, enrollments for ELTI have steadily grown as many students seek to transition from ELTI into a degree program at a U.S. university. Consistent with growth patterns, ELTI started the Fall 2011 semester with its highest enrollment ever, registering 231 students from 20 different countries. The largest student populations come from Saudi Arabia, followed by South Korea, Japan, Kuwait and China.



## A Student's Take on "Reverse" Culture Shock



In the rush of preparing for their study abroad experiences, most students do not think much about what life will be like in the United States upon their return. As students decide which of their favorite sweaters to pack or whether or not they can purchase immodium at the pharmacy overseas, overlooking the section in the Pre-Departure Orientation on reverse culture shock is all too easy.

In education abroad offices at many universities, the focus is often on issues such as safety, culture shock, packing, immigration and finances, among others. Re-entry is an important piece of the study abroad cycle that can be forgotten and coming back to the country a student previously called "home" may develop into an unexpected challenge.

UNC Charlotte International Studies major Aaron Peltoniemi returns this semester after spending a year at Oita University in Japan. Below are his reflections on his re-entry experience has been like so far.

*"Re-entry is something which I dreaded for the last week before I actually returned to the States. The hard part about re-entry is not re-adjusting to the culture, rather it is coming back to the same "routine-like" lifestyle I had before I embarked on my amazing journey to study abroad in Japan. Though I am glad to be back in the States, there are numerous aspects found in Japanese culture, life-style, and experience that simply cannot be replicated here (especially in North Carolina). In addition, the awesome international friends I was able to make in Japan will either remain in Japan or return home to their respective countries. If re-entry is difficult for some people, I think it can actually be a good thing as it indicates that one was able to live and enjoy life in a different culture. Re-entry should teach people how to look at life in a different way."*



# Looking Ahead to International Education Week



The Office of International Programs will coordinate more than a week of events in November to highlight UNC Charlotte's commitment to global and international understanding. As a celebration of International Education Week, this joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education will be observed world-wide from November 14-18, 2011. Over 100 countries participate in the 11th annual IEW celebration.

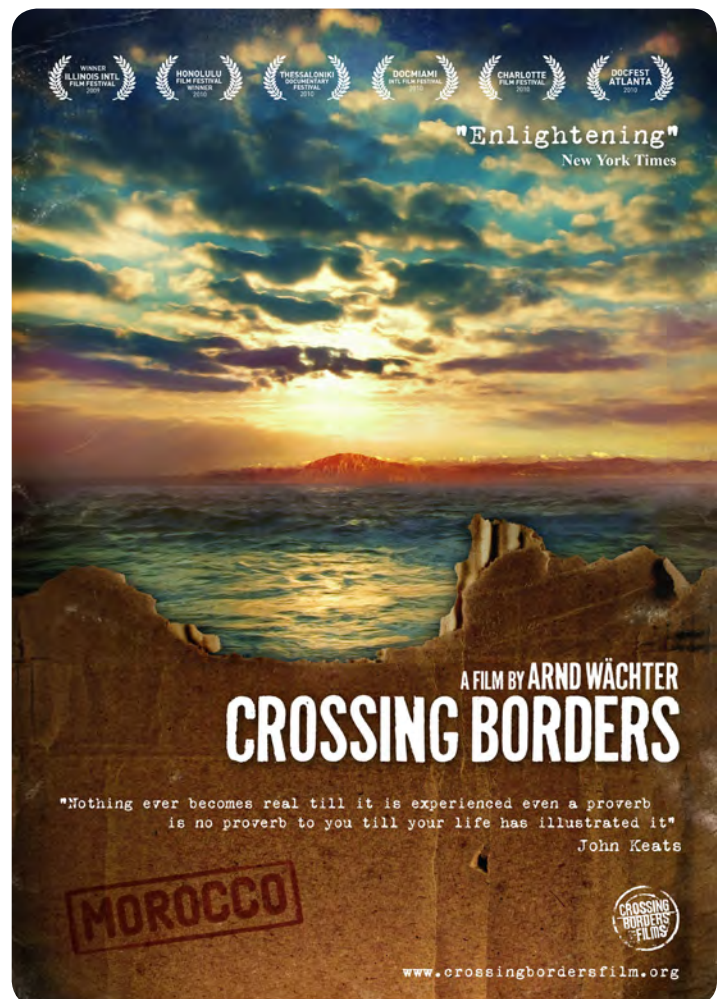
Specific details for 2011 are still in development so it is not too late to be involved with the program! Faculty, staff and students are invited to contribute programming, lectures or presentations to the week's lineup. For more information, please contact Maureen White, coordinator of international initiatives, at [Maureen.White@uncc.edu](mailto:Maureen.White@uncc.edu) or 687-7305. See <http://oip.uncc.edu/IntEdWk.htm> where the event schedule will be updated often.

## IEW Showcase Program: *Crossing Borders* Documentary

As the kickoff event to UNC Charlotte's International Education Week festivities, a director's screening of the award-winning feature documentary, *Crossing Borders*, will be held Monday, November 14. *Crossing Borders* follows students from the United States and Morocco as they travel together through Morocco and learn much about themselves in the process. In the words of the director, Arnd Wächter, "The film is designed to empower youth by deepening intercultural empathy and initiating student dialogues." A discussion with the film's director will follow the screening. Please see <http://crossingbordersfilm.org/> for more information on the film and check the IEW event schedule at <http://oip.uncc.edu/IntEdWk.htm> for the location of this and other events.

*"Crossing Borders' is an amazingly powerful film that makes you stop and think about your place in the world and the infinite and complex threads of race, culture, and class that connect us."*

*Julie Leitman, Regional Director,  
Academic Programs International*



# Self-discovery Through Studying Abroad

The following student-written narrative by psychology major Nishthaya Soukhanouvong highlights the impact of her study abroad experience in Florence, Italy during her junior year at UNC Charlotte.

Study abroad is always an experience for students, but what you make out of this experience is an entirely different matter. For some students, it may be to seize every opportunity and do as many things as they can in their short time abroad. For me personally, it was not to only seize every opportunity, but to grasp what I have been given, then submerge and savor it. If I had to describe my study abroad experience in three words it would be: unearthing, challenging, and rewarding. Study abroad has helped me to develop the knowledge of myself as well as to solidify what I want to do in my future career.

Florence, Italy was (and certainly was not) everything I expected it to be. Immersing myself in the Italian culture threw me into a whimsy of emotions. First, I am an Asian-American female whose influence and knowledge of culture derives from my Laotian family, American environment, and seven years of Japanese culture and language. Nothing prepared me for the actual confrontation of Italian culture; I had to learn the exact opposite in rules of norms and manners. Where my Asian and American upbringing knew politeness and personal space, it was bruised by the Italian fiery passion and close contact that can be taken as bold and audacious. Where I have been embedded in timeliness and instant gratification, Florence taught me the nuances of a leisurely, slow-pace culture. And where I have grown up certainly loving the combination of eating my carbs and meat together, it was taunted by Italian cuisine and the



art of savoring each food item on a separate plate.

These particular elements showed me that, yes, certainly things are different, but also you cannot just always come into a new situation expecting things to happen in a certain way. Sometimes you have to just expect the unexpected and just go with it. I grew up always expecting that if I prepared myself and did everything according to plan, things would turn out as they should. Studying abroad has sort of broken my mode of expectancies and helped me rebuild a new, stronger foundation, which was refreshing and enlightening.

Not only did I discover myself while abroad, it also helped me in knowing what interests I have for my future career. While taking a cross-cultural psychology class in Florence, I have developed a stronger passion for wanting to help people psychologically. I am a psychology major considering going into social work or counseling psychology, which has to deal with how culture plays into our environment. Study abroad has played a role in helping me make this decision.

I would absolutely encourage students to study abroad. As of now I am deciding to participate in the study abroad fair and share my experiences with interested and doubtful students. I am voicing my opinions to my fellow peers about my experiences in Italy and hopefully sparking an idea in them to go out and discover themselves. To describe my experience by only words would only suppress my actual experience so I hope that other students would just do it and find out what it is really like.



## Dual Language Immersion Course Pairs U.S. students with students from Japan



Twenty UNC Charlotte students were joined by eighteen students from various universities across Japan to share cultures and languages in a dual language immersion program in August 2011. Intercultural Outreach Programs, in collaboration with the Department of Languages and Culture Studies (Japanese Programs) at UNC Charlotte and the American Cultural Exchange of Japan designed a program that pushed the boundaries of second language acquisition from inside a dual-language classroom. Both student groups were immersed in their target language while receiving accelerated instructional benefits from the opportunity to learn from and teach each other.

The dual language immersion concept allows students to gain full proficiency and mastery of the curriculum in two languages. Furthermore, it provides students with an environment that fosters cultural understanding while promoting linguistic growth. This program utilized the professional knowledge and resources of two experienced instructors, both fluent in the English and Japanese languages. The program successfully met the standards of a dual language program by requiring UNC Charlotte students to read, write, and speak in Japanese, while the students from Japan were required to read, write, and speak in English. Though communication was challenging at times, students all agreed that this method of instruction provided a distinctive approach to acquiring the target language.

*This course has easily been the greatest experience of my school career. I have made amazing new friends and contacts that will last a lifetime. I have also learned more in these three weeks than I have in my past two years of studying Japanese. Thank you for allowing me to have this experience.*

*-Dennis Linzalone, Japanese Language Student,  
UNC Charlotte.*

In addition to the academic components of the program, many cultural and recreational activities were provided to encourage informal interaction between the groups in social settings. The UNC Charlotte students often volunteered to spend evenings and weekends with the visiting Japanese students to help them experience American culture. Many of the UNC Charlotte students who participated in the program intend to study abroad in Japan in the upcoming fall and spring semesters. They were therefore provided the invaluable opportunity to make contacts and learn about their new environments before their arrival in Japan.

The Intensive Language Immersion Program was directed by Susan Lambert and coordinated by Krystal Ostic and Anne Giles in the Office of International Programs at UNC Charlotte. Faculty interested in exploring similar types of intense language and culture programs, can contact Lambert at [slambert@unc.edu](mailto:slambert@unc.edu).



## Bring International Perspectives to Your Classroom

Are you teaching course content that could be enhanced by hearing the perspectives of international students? The Cultural Ambassador Program facilitates panel presentations by international students in classrooms, departments and offices.

Contact Marian Beane, [mebeane@unc.edu](mailto:mebeane@unc.edu), or Denise Medeiros, [dvmedei@unc.edu](mailto:dvmedei@unc.edu), to include an international perspective in your course for the fall 2011 or spring 2012 semesters.

## Angela Wright Promotes Study Abroad



Angela (Angie) Wright has recently been named the lead advisor in the Office of Education Abroad. Wright graduated from UNC Charlotte in May 2007 with a Bachelor's of Arts in International Studies and Spanish. Following her graduation, Wright interned with OEA for a one-and-a-half year period. In September of 2009 Wright taught English in Seoul, South Korea, and returned to the United States to join the OEA team beginning in January 2011.

In addition to living in South Korea, Wright has visited 10 countries including Australia, Great Britain, the Philippines, and Bolivia, to name a few. As a student, Wright studied abroad the summer of 2006 in Guadalajara, Mexico and the spring of 2007 in Santiago, Chile. Her various travels and international experiences motivated her to pursue a career in international education. Wright maintains that studying abroad was the most influential part of her undergraduate studies and she looks forward to motivating other students to explore beyond their borders.

As lead advisor with OEA, Wright works closely with students to help them realize their study abroad goals by guiding students in selecting study abroad destinations, helping them through the application process, preparing them for departure, and supporting them when they return to campus. She is available by appointment and maintains drop-in advising hours to address questions and concerns students have as they progress through the study abroad process. Wright is also involved in marketing study abroad opportunities around campus, conducting classroom presentations and representing the Office of Education Abroad at various campus events and activities.

## Annual Study Abroad Fair

The Office of Education Abroad hosted its annual Study Abroad Fair on Wednesday, September 14th between the College of Health and Human Services building and the College of Education building.

The annual fall fair is an opportunity to explore the global options available to UNC Charlotte students. Attendees can meet UNC Charlotte faculty members who lead study abroad programs, students who have studied abroad, as well as international students currently studying abroad here at UNC Charlotte. Information on each program offered through the Office of Education Abroad is available at booths where faculty directors and student returnees are often available to share photo albums and enthusiastic stories.

Information sessions are offered for students six times per week in the Office of Education Abroad and the schedule can be found at <http://www.edabroad.uncc.edu/default.asp>. Please encourage your students to explore opportunities abroad!



## Administration

Joël Gallegos, *Assistant Provost for International Programs*  
 Christina Sanchez, *Associate Director of International Programs*  
 Mary Zink, *Administrative Assistant*  
 Ben Farnham, *Business and Technology Manager*  
 Cathy Thompson, *Senior Accounting Technician*  
 Esther Hollington, *Accounting Technician*  
 Maureen White, *Coordinator of International Initiatives*  
 Tamara Johnson, *Program Assistant*

## Office of Education Abroad

Brad Sekulich, *Director*  
 Lisa Baum Nevalainen, *Assistant Director*  
 Angie Wright, *Lead Advisor*  
 Kimberly Kuhn, *Coordinator of Short Term Programs*

## International Student/Scholar Office

Marian Beane, *Director*  
 Denise Medeiros, *Assistant Director*  
 Debbie Wilson, *Administrative Assistant*  
 Chau Tran, *SEVIS Coordinator*  
 Maddy Baer, *International Employment Coordinator*

## Intercultural Outreach Programs

Susan Lambert, *Director*  
 Krystal Ostic, *Program Coordinator*  
 Anne Giles, *Program Coordinator*  
 Erika Mendoza, *Administrative Assistant*

## English Language Training Institute

S. Kelly Franklin, *Director*  
 Diane Hancock, *Support Services Coordinator*  
 Samantha Parrett, *Administrative Assistant*  
 Ana Houck, *ELTI Main Line/Reception Desk*  
 Meriam Brown, *Coordinator, International Instructor Language Support*  
 Jill Morin, *Core Instructor*  
 Nancy Pfingstag, *Core Instructor*  
 Allie Wall, *Core Instructor*

### Adjunct Instructors

Dominick Antonucci	Terri Goode	Deborah Porter
Carrie Berkman	Mary Wilkes Harris	Kim Rodriguez
Sara Bowers	Allison Hase	Rebekah Schlottman
Jacqueline Cervantes	Ana Houck	Rosemary Schmid
Jeremy Cervantes	Maria Lee	Linda Scott
Corie Crouch	Jeanne Malcolm	Sherrie Smith
Katherine Elliott	Stephanie Miller	Seth Stroud
Constance Fessler	Michelle Plaisance	KooSee Vang

