



Welcome from Assistant Provost for International Programs



On behalf of the Office of International Programs (OIP), I would like to extend an overdue welcome back to campus. I trust that your fall semester is off to a productive beginning and that you are returning with great enthusiasm to collaborate with OIP in advancing internationalization on our campus.

The OIP team is looking forward to an academic year full of robust interaction with our campus community to develop and support the various initiatives that engage our faculty, staff, and most importantly, our students. If the beginning of this academic term is any indication of our level of activity this year, it will no doubt be one for the OIP records. We've recently just welcomed a record number of international students and we have just opened the Global Gateways House, our campus' first free standing, internationally focused residence facility located in Greek Village. In addition, we expect a record number of outbound study abroad programs this year, possibly resulting in the highest number of education abroad participants in UNC Charlotte history.

We are delighted to introduce the newest member of the OIP family, Tarek Elshayeb, who will be serving as our new director of International Student / Scholar Office. We look forward to collaborating with him to strengthen support for our international student and scholar community.

Finally, we also look forward to working with our longtime supporters as well as with our new faculty and staff. Please join us in our programming and become involved in any way that you can. We welcome your thoughts, contributions, and involvement. Have a wonderful academic year 2013-2014!

Joël A. Gallegos
Assistant Provost for International Programs

38th Annual International Festival Offers Expanded Opportunities for Student Engagement

Each year, the UNC Charlotte International Festival celebrates the people, places, and cultures represented in our community. As one of the campus' oldest traditions, the Festival has grown since its inaugural year in 1975 when 15 countries were represented and a few hundred faculty, staff, students and community members attended. The 2012 Festival showcased over 50 countries and welcomed more than 20,000 attendees for the annual celebration of arts, crafts, food, music, and dance.

As the Festival continues to expand, so do opportunities for campus and student engagement. Culturally-focused student organizations consistently represent their countries and cultures at booths, often selling food they have prepared and engaging with attendees.

In addition to students staffing the cultural booths, student volunteers have long been an integral part of the success of the event. Nearly 200 students volunteered in 2012, with capacity added to involve over 350 student volunteers this year. Student volunteers contribute in various ways from the pre-festival promotion, to assisting cultural representatives from the community on the day of the festival, all the way through to post-festival cleanup. Newer elements of the festival like the International Game Zone allow student volunteers to engage with the cultural meanings behind interactive games as they lead attendees in activities. Student organizations such as the geography and chess clubs participated in 2012 as well as the men's soccer team.

OIP encourages faculty to motivate student attendance and participation. OIP oversees extra-credit sign-in sheets at the festival information booth and is pleased to suggest engagement and reflection assignment ideas. Please contact international@unc.edu for more information. Additional festival details are available at ifest.unc.edu.



TRAVEL THE WORLD IN A DAY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28
10AM-6PM | STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER | RAIN OR SHINE



SPONSORED BY

20th Anniversary of University of Limoges Exchange Partnership

In June 2013, Chancellor Dubois visited UNC Charlotte's oldest institutional partner in France at the invitation of President Helene Pauliat of the University of Limoges to recognize our 20 years of institutional cooperation.

At a signing ceremony to renew our exchange agreement, our two institutions committed to strengthening our level of cooperation. In order to better support this increased level of activity, each institution committed to a limited number of scholarship and travel funds to encourage student and scholar exchange.

While in France, Chancellor Dubois met with various academic administrators and visited a number of research laboratories to identify areas of partnership. In addition, Chancellor Dubois visited with officials from the Office of the Mayor of Limoges as well as officials from AREVA at their Limousin field site.



Elshayeb is Appointed Director of International Student/Scholar Office

Mr. Tarek Elshayeb has been appointed director of the International Student/Scholar Office (ISSO).



"We are delighted that Tarek will bring his extensive immigration and administrative knowledge to complement our ISSO staff team and look forward to his many contributions in supporting our international student and scholar community while serving on OIP's leadership team," says Joel Gallegos, Assistant Provost of International Programs.

Elshayeb brings more than 13 years of experience working with international student, scholar, and faculty support services. Most recently, he served as director of the International Student and Scholar Services at Western Kentucky University. He received his B.A. in History from Alexandria University in Egypt and his Master of Human Resource Development from Clemson University.

"I look forward to working with the campus community to support internationalization at UNC Charlotte," says Elshayeb. "It is a pleasure to be part of the OIP team."

The Global Gateways Program

August 2013 marked the launch of the Office of International Programs' Global Gateways Program. The Global Gateways Program aims to increase students' self and cultural awareness with an international emphasis. Through participation in the Global Gateways Program, students will understand more about self as a cultural being, strengthen one's intercultural competence, engage with UNC Charlotte, the city of Charlotte's international communities, and practice conscientiously interacting within an intercultural environment.



In partnership with Housing and Residence Life, OIP prepared House #6 in Greek Village to welcome 28 young ladies invested in living in a dynamic intercultural environment. Following review of applications, residents were accepted to live in the Gateways House. One condition of the program is student leadership and contribution to one of five committees: international social engagement, international academic engagement, international initiatives outreach, internationally-related community service, or public relations/promotion.

Students' enthusiasm is strong as they completed their planning retreat on September 8th and hosted an open house gathering September 18th. Global Gateways resident assistant Mandonna Amirehsani said, "Bonds and routines have already formed, making the house lively. I am truly blessed to be living with a group of eager learners."

The Office of International Programs is excited to see where the inaugural year takes its Global Gateways Program. OIP looks forward to connecting with faculty who are interested in being involved with the program. Contact Dr. Christina Sanchez if interested in learning more about the program at c.sanchez@uncc.edu. General details are online at oip.uncc.edu/resources/opportunities-and-services-students/global-gateways-program.

Graduate Assistant for Global Gateways Programs



To assist with the coordination of the Global Gateways Program, the Office of International Programs welcomed Ms. Jenna Renkas to our staff team as a Graduate Assistant. Renkas is a first year student in the College of Education pursuing her Master's degree in School Counseling. Renkas previously attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, where she received her B.A. in Psychology. She has lived and attended school in four countries: Cote d'Ivoire, Italy, the United States; and Venezuela.

Jenna now offers guidance, leadership, and mentoring to the 28 ladies of the Global Gateways House. She noted that her local and global adventures have provided "the perspective and wealth of experiences that I need to be a successful, compassionate, and empathetic member of OIP"

Archaeology in Jerusalem

Each year, UNC Charlotte faculty members from across the academic disciplines develop and lead short-term study abroad programs around the world. During the summer of 2013, Dr. James Tabor of the Department of Religious Studies led 18 students to Jerusalem. Below, Dr. Tabor offers a reflection on his experience as director of this summer's excavation.



Conducting archaeology anywhere in the world would surely be an exciting opportunity but to dig and study in Jerusalem is truly a chance of a lifetime. This past June Dr. Diane Zablotsky and I took 18 students (including 10 Levine Scholars) to

Jerusalem to participate in just such a program—joined by 40 other participants from around the world.

UNC Charlotte, under the academic oversight of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has exclusive rights to a historic site on the slopes of Mt. Zion where we have been excavating since 2006. We are the only American university with a license to excavate in Jerusalem. Our connection goes back to 2006 and our ongoing relationship with Israeli archaeologist Dr. Shimon Gibson, professor at the University of the Holy Land and an adjunct professor at UNC Charlotte in the Department of Religious Studies. Dr. Gibson and I co-direct this unique and exciting excavation. We run the dig as an academic “field school” for four to six weeks each summer.

The Mt. Zion site is only a few hundred yards away from the traditional site of the “Upper Room” where Jesus ate his last Supper with his disciples. In Herodian Jerusalem, or the “time of Jesus” it was part of an aristocratic complex of wealthy mansions on this southwest hill of ancient Jerusalem. The site itself has significant remains from the Ottoman, Islamic, Byzantine, and early Roman periods. This summer we made several spectacular finds, including a well preserved plastered bath from a 1st century CE Jerusalem mansion and a cistern filled with finds related to the siege of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 CE.

Our UNC Charlotte “18” were truly an impressive group. They worked hard, bonded well, and clearly benefited from their first-hand experience of the complex and diverse cultures of Jerusalem. On days we did not dig I took them to various historic sites around Israel from Masada to the Sea of Galilee. You can hear more from me and two of our students interviewed recently by Mike Collins, host of “Charlotte Talks,” on WFAE at wfae.org/post/unc-charlotte-mt-zion-excavation.

Graduate Student Interns at Los Alamos National Laboratory

Bin Huang, doctoral student in Electrical and Computer Engineering, came to UNC Charlotte from China to begin his Ph.D. in Fall 2008. His research focused on high-performance reconfigurable computing in the



Reconfigurable Computing System (RCS) laboratory. In Summer 2013, he was accepted as an intern at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico. At LANL, Huang explored, designed, and tested a system for detecting and handling data corruption in next generation hardware designs. Huang's work also won the best poster award in LANL's annual student symposium. Huang continues his internship at LANL in Fall 2013 and will graduate with his Ph.D. in May 2014.

New International Students Join the Campus Community



The International Student/Scholar Office (ISSO) welcomed nearly 400 new international students to campus for Fall 2013, representing a growth of more than 10% over the number of

incoming international students in Fall 2012. This semester's incoming international students represent over 30 countries and bring UNC Charlotte's international student population to nearly 1,300 students from over 100 countries.

The majority of the incoming international undergraduate students come to UNC Charlotte from Saudi Arabia (155 students) with China (69) and Kuwait (32) being second and third when listing by country of origin. At the graduate level, the majority of incoming international students join us from India (428) with China (202) and Iran (57) second and third in regards to student populations at UNC Charlotte.

During several days of orientation sessions, students received information on topics ranging from employment in the US to immigration responsibilities and adjusting to the academic environment in the US. Several campus partners including Campus Police and Safety, the Counseling Center, and the Student Health Center presented information to aid in the students' adjustment process.

Other opportunities to socialize were included in orientation activities, including the annual International Welcome Party. This more than 30-year tradition was held on Friday as part of the Union Takeover, an element of the annual week of Welcome Activities organized through the Dean of Students Office. More than 400 students from over 30 different countries celebrated the beginning of the new semester, socialized through interactive activities, and danced to rhythms from around the world.

UNC Charlotte



The UNC Charlotte community celebrates the recent Fulbright-related activity highlighted here on the present page. The Office of International Programs (OIP) maintains a database log of all recent or former Fulbright recipients. If you are a Fulbright alumnus new to UNC Charlotte and wish to be added to our records, please contact OIP at international@uncc.edu so we can add you to our list of UNC Charlotte Fulbright alumni.

OIP is pleased to offer support to any faculty or administrator interested in pursuing international exchange opportunities including the Fulbright programs, reciprocal department exchanges, and exchanges based on agreements between UNC Charlotte and foreign institutions of higher learning.

For more information on these resources, see oip.uncc.edu/resources/resources-faculty-and-staff#FacultyExchanges or contact OIP at international@uncc.edu or 704-687-7755 to request a meeting with Assistant Provost Joël Gallegos or Associate Director Christina Sanchez.

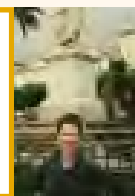
Maja Godlewska
Assistant Professor
Department of Art and Art History
February – July 2012
Wroclaw, Poland



Alan Freitag
Professor
Department of Communication Studies
February – July 2012
Poznan, Poland
Poznan University of Economics



Christine Haynes
Associate Professor
Department of History
AY 2013-2014
Strasbourg, France



Tanure Ojaide
Frank Porter Graham
Professor of Africana Studies
Department of Africana Studies
AY 2013-2014
Nigeria



Spencer Salas
Assistant Professor
Department of Middle,
Secondary and K-12 Education
February – July 2013
Johannesburg, South Africa



2013-2014 LISTING OF FULBRIGHT STUDENTS

Yudo Anggoro
Indonesia
PhD, Public Policy

Mauricio Quinones Dominguez
Colombia
PhD, Public Policy

Fulbright Activity



James Douglas
MPA Director and Associate Professor
Department of Political Science and Public
Administration
Summer 2013
Estonia



Jordan Poler
Associate Professor
Department of Chemistry
AY 2013-2014
Russia



Suzanne Lamorey
Associate Professor and Child and Family Development
Program Coordinator
Department of Special Education and Child Development
AY 2013-2014
India



Vivian Lord
Professor and Chair
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
December 2012 - June 2013
India, University of Chennai

AT UNC CHARLOTTE

Hanne Duindam
Netherlands
MA, Clinical Psychology

Nahida Begum Khudadad
Pakistan
PhD, Public Policy

International Student Receives Graduate Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Award

Dr. Deeptak Verma, a December 2012 doctoral graduate from the Department of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, was recently awarded the annual Graduate Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Award for his dissertation titled *Elucidating the Effects of Mutation and Evolutionary Divergence Upon Protein Structure Quantitative Stability / Flexibility Relationships*.

"All of the nominations this year were truly excellent," says Dr. Katherine Hall-Hertel, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School. "Dr. Verma's work stood out because it is both innovative and likely to have a significant impact in the treatment of disease."

Verma's winning entry was recognized with a \$1,000 prize and submission to the national Council of Graduate Schools' annual competition, where he may be eligible for an honorarium of \$2,000 and a certificate of citation.

During his time at UNC Charlotte, Verma co-authored nine published papers based on this research. In addition to his dissertation award, Verma won the Molecular Engineering and Design poster award at the 4th Annual CBES (Center for Biomedical Engineering and Science) Graduate Student Poster Competition.

He currently holds a post-doctoral position in Dr. Chris Bailey-Kellogg's lab at Dartmouth College.



Workshops for International Graduate Students



The Center for Graduate Life (CGL) is dedicated to the academic and professional success of all graduate

students. The CGL holds workshops throughout the semester, often intended for graduate students who do not speak English as their primary language. Please encourage students who might benefit from the workshops to attend and to explore the other services provided by the CGL.

Each workshop will be 1:00-2:30pm in the CGL. See gradlife.uncc.edu for a full calendar and more information.

Orientation to US Academic Writing, Wednesday, September 25

Introduces concepts central to academic writing at the graduate level, such as audience and rhetorical purpose. This interactive workshop also includes information on academic integrity and strategies for avoiding plagiarism.

Correctness and Clarity in Graduate Level Writing, Wednesday, October 16

Reviews grammatical features that sometimes prove difficult for non-native speakers of English. Participants will complete hands-on activities created from authentic professional-level texts to gain better control of grammar points.

Incorporating Sources in Your Academic Writing, Wednesday, October 30

Reviews strategies for avoiding plagiarism. Attention is given to how to cite sources and paraphrase correctly. Participants will collaborate on activities to improve their understanding of these concepts.

Summer Programs Take Students and Faculty Across Globe

UNC Charlotte has seen significant growth in recent years in both student and faculty interest in summer education abroad programs. During Summer 2013, the Office of Education Abroad administered 14 faculty-led education abroad programs, in conjunction with Colleges throughout the University, sending UNC Charlotte students to a variety of exciting locations around the globe.

Summer 2013 program offerings included a mix of both ongoing and new programs. The College of Arts + Architecture led three programs in which students explored architecture and landscape in Scandinavia, urban design in China, and dance in Italy. The Belk College of Business offered graduate programs in Brazil, Germany, and the Czech Republic, as well as a new undergraduate opportunity focused on international management and economics in the heart of Tuscany, Italy. The College of Engineering also offered a program in Peru focused on engineering for students interested in development work.

In addition, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offered a variety of summer program opportunities in 2013. Students explored topics such as Spanish language in Costa Rica, archeology in Israel, as well as public relations, psychology, sociology, and criminal justice in various locations in the United Kingdom.

If you are a faculty member interested in learning more about developing your own summer program abroad, please contact Kimberly Kuhn in the Office of Education Abroad at kkuhn3@uncc.edu for further information.



Students Discuss US Football and Soccer at Tailgate Party



In celebration of the inaugural 49ers football game, the Office of International Programs (OIP) joined with Chartwell's Dining Services to host an International Tailgate Party. OIP staff and student volunteers from the Education Abroad Student Association staffed tables with descriptive information on the rules of American football, a comparison between American and "global" football (aka soccer), as well as a trivia wheel and prizes.

International and US domestic students played yard games like cornhole and a football toss game which also awarded prizes. These activities promoted awareness about the OIP's upcoming cross-cultural activities while building energy for the inaugural football game.

MRC Programming Explores Issues of Diversity and Identity

Among the many programs hosted through the Multicultural Resource Center, the Office of International Programs is pleased to share just a few which support students' growth in self and cultural awareness. For a full listing of events, see mrc.uncc.edu.

Let's Talk About It: Cross-Cultural Relationships
Wednesday, October 16 12:30 - 1:30pm
Student Union 200

What makes relationships that cross cultural lines unique? How do different cultural viewpoints impact dating and romance? Join this conversation facilitated by the Office of International Programs.

Latino in America: Film and Panel Discussion
Monday, September 23 7:00pm
Student Union Theater

The film "CNN Presents: Latino in America" reported by Soledad O'Brien explores how Latinos are reshaping our communities and culture and forcing a nation of immigrants to rediscover what it means to be an American.

Multicultural Leadership Conference
Saturday, October 26 8:00am - 5:00pm

The Multicultural Leadership Conference is an annual one-day opportunity for student leaders to explore the intersection of multiculturalism and leadership through dynamic speakers and engaging workshops.

International Speaker Series

Join your students to engage with speakers on topics ranging from economics to globalization and foreign policy. Past speakers have included political dignitaries, current or former ambassadors, and prominent scholars in their fields.

Faculty are encouraged to reserve space to attend with their classes and/or arrange for an extra-credit sign in sheet for students. See below for information on the remaining two installations of the Fall 2013 International Speaker Series. For more information, see oip.uncc.edu/calendar/international-speaker-series.



Thursday, October 17

Diana Untermeyer, Author of "Qatar: Sand, Sea and Sky"
3:30-5:00pm
CHHS 128



Monday, November 11

Dr. Carlos Brito, leadership of FAPESP, the science funding agency of Sao Paulo, Brazil
9:30-10:45am
CHHS 128

McGregor Opens Annual International Speaker Series

Journalist and author Richard McGregor opened the 6th annual International Speaker Series on Thursday, September 5. McGregor spoke on current trends underlying the political economies of the US and China. He elaborated on themes presented in his recent publication *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*.



The former Washington bureau chief of Financial Times, McGregor has also served as the Beijing bureau chief, a Shanghai correspondent, and deputy editor of Financial Times in London. His experience includes work with the BBC, the International Herald Tribune, and the Far Eastern Economic Review as well as various journalistic outlets in Taiwan and Australia.

The annual International Speaker Series is presented by UNC Charlotte's Atkins Library, the Department of Global, International & Area Studies, the Office of International Programs, and the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. For more information on the International Speaker Series, see oip.uncc.edu.

Funding Available for International Education Week Programming: November 18-22

Limited funding is available through the Office of International Programs to support departmentally-sponsored initiatives which advance campus internationalization for inclusion in International Education Week (IEW) 2013. Faculty are encouraged to submit programs for inclusion in this week of lectures, presentations, and performances scheduled in November to celebrate our campus commitment to global and international understanding. Student submissions are welcome, but funding is available only for programs sponsored and implemented by faculty or departments. Find event submission and funding request forms as well as listings of previous events at oip.uncc.edu/programs-speakers-and-events/international-education-week.

International Education Week to Feature Study Abroad Program Development Workshop

Are you a faculty member interested in developing, designing, and implementing an education abroad program? Join the Office of Education Abroad for a workshop to be held during International Education Week. To learn more, contact edabroad@uncc.edu.

Call for Nominations: Sponsored Student Memberships to the World Affairs Council of Charlotte



The Office of International Programs (OIP) is accepting nominations for a limited number of OIP-sponsored student memberships for qualifying UNC Charlotte students in any major to the

World Affairs Council of Charlotte (WACC).

WACC serves as a regional center for global education and engagement around world affairs and is hosted on the UNC Charlotte campus in OIP. Student membership will allow access to WACC's globally-relevant programming and networking at a reduced student rate.

Upcoming WACC programs and more information can be found at worldaffairscharlotte.org. Nominations are accepted until Tuesday, October 1. OIP will outreach to nominated students based on nomination information to determine student interest and qualification. Students may also self-nominate with submission of required application materials.

For more information on student memberships or the nomination process, please contact international@uncc.edu.

Intercultural Outreach Programs Bring Diversity to UNC Charlotte

Intercultural Outreach Programs (IOP) hosted 48 participants in four short-term programs during Summer 2013: 26 high school English teachers from Brazil; 19 undergraduate students from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan; two Fulbright Scholars from South America; and one intern through the Kizuna Project from Osaka, Japan.

Brazilian English Teachers USA (BETUSA) Program

UNC Charlotte was selected as one US campus for hosting K-12 teachers through the Brazilian English Teachers USA (BETUSA) Program. Teachers from across Brazil participated in this intensive, six-week teacher training program, which offered opportunities to improve their English language proficiency and training in language teaching methodologies. One of the teachers shared, "This opportunity has been of great value to me and I'm sure I'll be able to put a lot of what I've learned here into practice in Brazil."



Intensive English Immersion Program

As part of an ongoing partnership model between IOP and the Department of Languages and Culture Studies, several Japanese language students from UNC Charlotte were joined with English language students from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, for the three-week intensive English immersion program. The program included courses in listening and speaking, reading and writing, various English class topics, and language exchange between students. A Sophia student expressed, "Throughout this program, I have learned a lot, not only English but about cultural differences."



Fulbright Scholars

IOP hosted two Fulbright Scholars to participate in a pre-academic language training program to prepare them for Fulbright-funded graduate studies in the United States. Gustavo Bosch Rubia and Patricio Borgoño attended language courses through the English Language Training Institute and were able to begin their adjustment to US academic life on UNC Charlotte's campus before moving on to their respective institutions.



International Students Connect with Local Community

Students enrolled in the English Language Training Institute (ELTI) at UNC Charlotte are encouraged to engage in campus life in order to be better prepared to take part in the academic and social life of the University once they matriculate. To facilitate campus and community exploration, ELTI offers what are known as “Special Topics” courses for further enrichment of the students’ experience on campus and in the community.

One of these topics courses has a service learning focus and offers the students the opportunity to see the greater Charlotte area while volunteering in local programs. The “Community Service” topics class debuted in Fall 2011 and has worked with the local organizations Hope Haven, Habitat for Humanity, and Second Harvest Food Bank. During Fall 2013, students plan to serve meals for families in Hospitality House, make cookies at Ronald McDonald House, and serve with the UNC Charlotte chapter of Habitat for Humanity.



Majed Alowais, ELTI student originally from Saudi Arabia, took the Community Service course during Summer 2013. He joined the class to plant flowers and separate monkey grass for residents of Hope Haven, a facility which “provides life skills for chemically dependent adults and families within a supportive residential environment leading to independence,” (hopehaveninc.org).

Alowais reflected “At the homeless house, we were so excited about what is in there... [and] what are we going to do for them! For me my life changed; now I love to share with others, even my food, and I like to see our city clean and beautiful.”

In August 2013, during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, many ELTI students were fasting. As part of their service, they spent three hours packing bread for students who might not have enough to eat at school. ELTI instructor Stephanie Wallace remarked that “the project reminded students that while they might be hungry for one day, some experience the feeling throughout the year.”

Wallace also reflected on how valuable she thought it was for students to interact with local volunteers who expressed curiosity about Saudi Arabian culture. “The added benefit is that while students are exposed to service projects and have the chance to practice their English, Charlotte also learns about the students and their respective cultures,” said Wallace. “In this way, ELTI plays an active role in promoting plurality across the Charlotte area.”

English Language Training Institute Student Advances to Graduate Studies

The English Language Training Institute (ELTI) hosts about 250 students from around the world who are improving their English to matriculate into degree programs at UNC Charlotte or elsewhere. One recent ELTI graduate reflects on her experience in ELTI and how it prepared her to transition into her doctoral program.



When Angelica Acosto Gonzalez arrived in Charlotte from Bogota, Colombia, in Spring 2013, she was unsure where her next steps would take her. She won a scholarship for her research in Bogota on health policy and human rights to come to the United States and continue her studies at the doctoral level. She applied to several PhD programs in the United States and while she waited in hopes of an acceptance letter, she enrolled in the ELTI at UNC Charlotte to improve her English skills before her course of study would begin.

Looking back on her choice to take classes at ELTI before advancing into graduate studies, Gonzalez believes she made the best choice for her goals and needs. She chose ELTI because a friend and former ELTI student from Colombia recommended the program to her. In regards to her time at ELTI, she says

“My experience [in ELTI] was wonderful... I [have found] lovely people, especially my teachers and my classmates. I think that ELTI gives you the opportunity to open your mind that the world is not closed; the world is open.”

After her doctoral studies, Gonzalez hopes to return to Colombia to apply her learning to the problems she perceives in the Colombian healthcare system. Having worked in an insurance company in Bogota, she believes she has a unique perspective on the Colombian healthcare system. “My idea is to try to improve the mistakes that the government has made in my country. I think that USA has, not the answer, but maybe the way to research the problems that [my country faces].”

ELTI staff work closely with ELTI students to advise them on their academic options and to prepare them for successful transitions into both graduate and undergraduate programs. Many graduating ELTI students choose to stay at UNC Charlotte for their courses of study with a growing proportion of degree-seeking international students admitted to UNC Charlotte each semester comprised of students matriculating from ELTI.

Career-Focused Workshop for Study Abroad Returnees

The Office of Education Abroad (OEA) takes as part of its mission “to strengthen the international dimension of UNC Charlotte’s campus by promoting multicultural and international understanding.” And while OEA successfully prepares a growing number of students before they depart for their education abroad experience each year, much of the work to fully support the student experience comes after the students have returned.

OEA provides newly-returned students with resources needed to transition back into life in the US, to cope with the sometimes unexpected effects of reverse culture shock, and to leverage their study abroad experience in their search for employment.

In a new addition to the annual welcome back and re-entry party, OEA partnered with the University Career Center (UCC) to provide the first-ever career workshop as part of the event. Shannon Keith from the UCC reviewed the skills and abilities often acquired while abroad and how to incorporate these experiences on a resume or articulate them in an interview.

As internships are a likely next step for undergraduate students transitioning into the professional arena, OEA offers several opportunities for returned students to intern in their offices and encourage other students to study abroad. See below for one student’s reflections on her study abroad experience and the role her current internship with OEA has played in her re-entry to the United States.

Intern from Japan Contributes to Office of International Programs



Intercultural Outreach Programs (IOP) hosted Ayaka Sato, an intern from Japan through the Kizuna Project, a student exchange program run by the Japanese government with an aim to increase global understanding of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Sato spent May-August in the Office of International Programs. As an undergraduate student at Osaka University in Osaka, Japan, with a double major in English and American Literature, Sato particularly enjoyed working with students from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, who were participating in the short-term English language program facilitated by IOP. Sato was able to advise the Japanese students, give them tips on living in America, and encourage them to speak English to help them to adjust.

Prior to her departure, Sato provided a presentation about the 2011 tsunami and nuclear meltdown. At the conclusion of her internship, Sato traveled through the US for two weeks before returning to Japan to complete her undergraduate degree. Sato expressed interest in pursuing graduate studies in the United States.

To date, the Kizuna project has enabled over 12,000 youth from 41 countries to participate in exchange programs, visit areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami and contribute to relief efforts. For more information on the Kizuna Project, see sv2.jice.org/kizuna/e.

The Impact of My Education Abroad Experience

The following reflection is from Jamie Pointer who participated in the Semester in Spain program during Spring 2013. Pointer is now completing an internship with the Office of Education Abroad.

My study abroad experience, in a nut-shell, was full of laughs, learning, and living. Laughs from the international and domestic people I met during my experience; learning from the people and culture of Spain; and living every day like it was my last day with the people I will never forget. But I never really thought about the aftermath. There are people who scare you with the thought of reverse culture shock, so I was nervous about returning.



I came back to the US as a new and improved me. Living on my own in a foreign country forced me to become independent and more confident in myself. I have [also] become more comfortable speaking Spanish; I now use it more in my daily life than I ever did before studying in Spain.

Studying abroad also sparked an interest in helping others to study abroad. This is one of the reasons why I applied for an internship at the Office of Education Abroad.

Without a doubt studying abroad affected my life back in the USA. It is an experience that keeps on giving, and hopefully it will continue well into the future.



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