



Welcome from Assistant Provost for International Programs



Dear Colleagues,

We are once again pleased to share the spring issue of our Global Perspective newsletter with you. Each spring term, OIP focuses on a number of special initiatives to increase access to our campus' many internationalization offerings including our spring break programs abroad and our Great Decisions lecture series. To

that end, we have a record number of faculty-led short term spring experiences to nine destinations on five continents. Additionally, we have a wonderful line-up of scholar speakers in our Great Decisions series which takes place in UNC Charlotte's Center City Building. It is our goal to share our speakers with our extended Charlotte community to highlight a broad range of current global issues and internationally themed topics.

Among our campus' most recent and notable recognitions are two internationally-relevant distinctions. One is UNC Charlotte's recent ranking in the Chronicle of Higher Education as a top Fulbright Scholar-producing institution which demonstrates the quality and commitment to international scholarship among our highly competitive faculty members. We know that in order to foster and support an internationalized campus environment, it is critical that our faculty members pursue such opportunities. A second is an award from the University of Cantabria in Spain in recognition of the partnership between the two institutions that spans more than 25 years. Both are indeed great accomplishments worth celebrating, and we are pleased to highlight them in the pages that follow.

As always, we look forward to our ongoing collaboration with our extended OIP family and invite you participate in any way. While OIP enjoys deep and productive partnerships with many departments, colleges and offices, advancing internationalization requires our entire campus community's participation and commitment. We encourage your international programming outreach and innovations.

With best wishes for a productive spring semester.

Joël A. Gallegos
Assistant Provost for International Programs

UNC Charlotte Ranked Among Top Fulbright-Producing Institutions

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently highlighted UNC Charlotte as one of the top producers of Fulbright Scholars. Joël Gallegos, Assistant Provost for the Office of International Programs (OIP) commented, "This recognition showcases how competitive our faculty members are on a national and international level."

During the 2012-13 academic year, Maja Godlewska, Assistant Professor of Art and Art History, and Alan Freitag, Professor of Communication Studies, served as Fulbright Scholars in Poland. James Douglas, Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, spent the summer in Estonia, and Vivian Lord, Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology, completed a term in India. Spencer Salas, Assistant Professor in the College of Education, was in South Africa.

For the 2013-14 academic year, Christine Haynes, Associate Professor of History, is serving as a Fulbright Scholar in France, and Suzanne Lamorey, Associate Professor of Special Education and Child Development, is in India. Tanure Ojaide, Professor of Africana Studies, is in Nigeria, and Jordan Poler, Associate Professor of Chemistry, is in Russia.

In addition to faculty members serving as Fulbright Scholars abroad, the University has become a destination for international students awarded a Fulbright scholarship. Yudo Anggoro, a doctoral student in public policy from Indonesia, is on campus for the 2013-14 academic year, along with fellow Ph.D. in public policy students Mauricio Dominguez and Nahida Khudadad from Colombia and Pakistan, respectively. Hanne Duindam, who is working toward a master's in clinical psychology, is from the Netherlands.

OIP is pleased to support faculty or administrators 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, 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.

UNC Charlotte Recognized for Long-Standing, Successful International Partnership

UNC Charlotte received the University of Cantabria (UniCan) Gold Medal award in recognition of its long-standing partnership with the university. The ceremony was held in Spain on January 27, where Provost Joan Lorden, along with a small delegation, traveled to accept the award on behalf of the University.



“I would like to express our sincere appreciation for this wonderful recognition,” said Provost Lorden. “Campus internationalization and exchange partnerships contribute significantly to our mission and to be recognized in this way from one of our oldest exchange partners is a special honor.”

The Gold Medal award is an honor of distinction, which UniCan gives to only one group or individual annually, recognizing an entity that has had an enormous impact on their campus. The award was presented by Teresa Susinos

Rada, Vice Rector for Internationalization of the University of Cantabria. “The Gold Medal awarded to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte is to show recognition of the values of responsibility, solidarity and partnership in International Relations, allowing a fruitful exchange between geographically and culturally distant institutions, but institutions which are close in their interests and objectives,” said Rada. “This medal symbolizes these principles and it does so by embodying them in this institution, with which we have been maintaining long and invaluable bilateral relations.”

Provost Lorden was joined by Robert Johnson, Dean of the College of Engineering; Sheri Spaine Long, Chair of Language and Culture Studies; and Joël Gallegos, Assistant Provost for International Programs. Gallegos says the partnership underscores the importance of building strong international linkages. “Our international partnerships play such a critical role in the comprehensive internationalization of UNC Charlotte,” he said. “This special recognition highlights the value of our network abroad as well as our institutional footprint.”

The University of Cantabria is one of UNC Charlotte’s oldest exchange partners, with more than 25 years of collaboration between the two institutions. Early on, the institutional exchange focused primarily on the semester in Spain program, which enables students at institutions across the UNC system to travel to Spain and study. Today, the partnership is celebrated through bilateral exchanges between academic disciplines with a goal to focus on research in areas of such as Civil Engineering, Business Administration, and Education. UNC Charlotte Faculty have also enjoyed the benefits of the Universities’ collaboration, serving as resident directors and spending an academic year at the UniCan campus.

To date, more than 500 students from North Carolina have enjoyed the opportunity to study on the campus of UniCan, while also exploring the rich cultural heritage of Spain.

Currently, there are a total of 18 students at six UNC system schools (six from UNC Charlotte) studying in Spain, as part of the exchange. According to Gallegos, UNC Charlotte is in discussion with UniCan about the possible expansion of the partnership.

Exhibit and Events to Commemorate War in Bosnia



“Ruined and Rebuilt Landscapes: Memories of the War in Bosnia” is an upcoming exhibition, running from March 17 to April 3 in the Northeast Lounge of the Cone Center. The exhibition

includes paintings by a British artist of war-damaged buildings in Bosnia that were completed in 1994, on loan from Appalachian State.

The Office of International Programs is pleased to co-sponsor the lecture and opening reception which is the first in a series of five interconnected events supported by a Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Grant and developed in collaboration with colleagues from the Colleges of Arts + Architecture and of Liberal Arts and Sciences, including the Departments of History and the Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Studies within the Department of Global, International & Area Studies.

Details are online at coaa.uncc.edu/news/ruined-and-rebuilt-landscapes-examines-ongoing-legacies-of-bosnian-war

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| Monday, March 17 | 6:00 pm |
| Cone Center – McKnight Hall Lecture: Dr. Emily Makas, UNC Charlotte “The Ruined and Rebuilt Cityscapes of Mostar and Sarajevo” Memories of the War in Bosnia” and Opening Reception | |
| Wednesday, March 19 | 5:00 pm |
| CHHS room 281 Movie Screening: <i>Grbavica</i> | |
| Monday, March 24 | 5:00 pm |
| CHHS room 281 Lecture: Dr. Bob Hayden, University of Pittsburgh - “Memories of War in Bosnia: Conflicting Commemorations in a Contested Country” | |
| Wednesday, March 26 | 5:00 pm |
| CHHS room 281 Movie Screening: <i>Srebrenica: A Cry from the Grave</i> | |
| Wednesday, April 2 | 6:00 pm |
| Cone Center – McKnight Hall / North East Lounge Panel Discussion: “Rebuilding Identities in the Bosnian–American Diaspora” and Closing Reception: Celebrating Bosnian– American Culture | |

Faculty Featured in Great Decisions Community Lecture Series

The 2014 Great Decisions Lecture Series featured four UNC Charlotte faculty and two community experts in the lineup of speakers. The Office of International Programs coordinates this annual lecture series based on topics chosen by the Foreign Policy Association as pressing to the public and our policy makers.

OIP hopes that the campus and Charlotte community join us for the final two installments of the lecture series. First, in collaboration with the 2014 Engineers Week program, Dr. Johan Enslin, Director, Energy Production and Infrastructure Center will speak about Energy Independence at 6:30pm in the City Center Building Room 201. Prior to the presentation, guests are invited to attend a reception from 5:00-6:30pm to honor Dr. Enslin (See details at right).

Second, due to inclement weather cancellations, the final Great Decisions program includes a double feature bonus! On February 26 in CCB 204, two faculty members will present. Dr. Cheryl Brown, Associate Professor, Political Science and Public Administration, UNC Charlotte, will present on China's Foreign Policy from 6:30pm-7:30pm, followed by a presentation about Israel and the USA by Dr. James Tabor, Professor and Chair of Religious Studies, UNC Charlotte.

2014 GREAT DECISIONS LECTURE SERIES SCHEDULE

oip.uncc.edu/community-engagement/great-decisions

January 15 - *US Trade Policy*

Greg Sizemore,
U.S. Export Assistance Centers

January 22 - *Food and Climate*

Dr. Greg Pillar,
Queens University

February 5 - *Defense Technology*

Dr. James Walsh,
UNC Charlotte

February 19 - *Energy Independence* *

Dr. Johan Enslin,
Director, UNC Charlotte

* Reception from 5:00-6:30pm to honor Dr. Enslin. See details at right.

February 26 - SPECIAL DOUBLE PRESENTATION **

China's Foreign Policy

Dr. Cheryl Brown,
UNC Charlotte

Israel and the U.S.

Dr. James Tabor,
UNC Charlotte

** both Dr. Brown and Dr. Tabor's original presentation dates were rescheduled due to inclement weather. This evening will include abbreviated presentations from both presenters with Dr. Brown from 6:30-7:30pm and Dr. Tabor from 7:30-8:30pm

Enslin Named 2014 Charlotte Business Journal's Energy Leadership Award Winner



Dr. Johan Enslin, Director of UNC Charlotte's Energy Production and Infrastructure Center, was recently recognized as a 2014 Energy Leadership Award honoree by the Charlotte Business Journal (CBJ). Enslin was recognized for his efforts to make the Carolinas a global force in the energy industry at the CBJ's fourth annual awards reception along with 10 other recipients of the award.

The Office of International Programs in partnership with the William States Lee College of Engineering will also recognize Dr. Enslin's accomplishments with a reception immediately preceding his Great Decisions presentation on Energy Independence Wednesday, February 19, from 5:00-6:30 pm in the UNC Charlotte Center City Building.

For more information and to register for the event, visit oip.uncc.edu/community-engagement/great-decisions.

CHARLOTTE
BUSINESS JOURNAL

New Chair of Languages and Culture Studies



The Office of International Programs (OIP) welcomes Dr. Sheri Spaine Long, the new Chair of the Department of Language and Culture Studies and Professor of Spanish. OIP looks forward to deepening their partnership with the Department.

Nominations Sought for the 2014 International Education Awards

The annual International Education Awards recognize faculty and student contributions to the international education experience at UNC Charlotte. Nominations are welcome for faculty members as well as undergraduate and graduate students from any discipline.

Deadline for nomination submissions is March 14. Details are online at pbd.uncc.edu/international-education-awards. Direct questions to international@uncc.edu.

UNC Charlotte's Graduate School Named a Host Institution for Brazilian Scholarship Initiative

In an effort to strengthen initiatives in the science and technology sectors, the Brazilian government is funding a scholarship program for its graduate students and researchers titled *Science Without Borders*. Approved applicants are provided funding for partial tuition as well as a stipend for living expenses and health insurance for a four-year period in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields at approved institutions, including UNC Charlotte's Graduate School.



The goal of the program is to expand science and technology, innovation, and competitiveness through higher education abroad.

UNC Charlotte offers several doctoral programs for potential students in fields ranging from bioinformatics and computational biology to mechanical engineering and welcomes students from Brazil to apply.

For a full list of programs and more information about UNC Charlotte's Graduate School, visit graduateschool.uncc.edu. Qualified Brazilian students can learn more about Science Without Borders at cienciasemfronteiras.gov.br/web/csf-eng/faq.

Global Gateways Accepting Applications for Fall 2014

With residents graduating, returning to their home countries after an exchange experience at UNC Charlotte, and headed overseas for a study abroad adventure, 14 new globally-minded female residents joined the Global Gateways resident community in January. For Spring 2014 the Global Gateways community is comprised of residents with 30 countries of connection, seven countries of citizenship, and academic majors representing four of the seven colleges.

The Office of International Programs is currently accepting applications for upper-class student residency in the Global Gateways Community for the Fall 2014 semester. Current upperclass students can apply at oip.uncc.edu/webforms/global-gateways-student-application until February 28.

Faculty/staff interested in exploring programming partnership can contact OIP Associate Director, Dr. Christina Sanchez at c.sanchez@uncc.edu.



Record Number of Faculty-Led Spring Break Programs

The Office of Education Abroad (OEA), in conjunction with Colleges throughout the University, will administer nine faculty-led education abroad programs during spring break of 2014, sending UNC Charlotte students to five continents across the globe.

OEA has seen significant growth recently in both student and faculty interest in spring break education abroad programs, and 2014's nine programs represent a record number, comprised of a mix of both new and existing programs.

Dr. Kai Werbeck, a new faculty member in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies, will lead the OEA's longest running spring break program, *Berlin in the Mirror of Time*. Dr. Jennifer Munroe of the Department of English will direct the well-established *Shakespeare*

in England program in 2014. In Poland, Prof. Judy LaPietra and Dr. John Cox of the Department of Global, International & Area Studies will for the second year lead a unique program for students to explore the Holocaust in Poland. Daniela Cunico Dal Pra of the Department of Languages and Culture Studies will also for the second time offer students the opportunity to study Italian culture by traveling to Italy's Veneto region.

Beyond Europe, Dr. Diana Rowan of the Department of Social Work will lead a recurring program in Malawi and Dr. Maren Coffman of the School of Nursing will lead a second-time program in Cuba.

A number of new programs in new destinations will also be offered. The Belk College of Business will offer the

University's first faculty-led opportunity in India, led by Cindy Fox and Dr. Chandra Subramaniam. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offers two new opportunities: a program in Cuenca, Ecuador led by Terre Lucas and Dr. Kim Buch focusing on service learning and psychology, and a comparative cultural sociology program based in the Netherlands led by Dr. Vaughn Schmutz.

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

Ambassadors Open the Spring 2014 International Speaker Series

The first installments of the Spring 2014 International Speaker series welcomed two ambassadors to UNC Charlotte to engage with over 200 students, faculty and staff.

Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States Manuel Sager discussed Swiss-U.S. relations on Monday, January 27 in a visit organized in cooperation with the Allegro Foundation, a Charlotte-based non-profit serving children with disabilities.

On Thursday, January 30, Ambassador of the Russian Federation Sergey I. Kislyak presented on the current state of relations in the first visit to Charlotte, North Carolina, by an ambassador from the Russian Federation or its predecessor, the U.S.S.R.



International Speaker Series Continues with Global Railway Discussion



Director of the Centre for Railway Research and Education at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom. Dr. Hillmansen will present a broad overview of the global trend in railroad transportation, discuss the issues in transportation energy modes, and explore the challenges for the United States in rail transportation progress.

The International Speaker Series is a partnership between the Office of International Programs, the World Affairs Council of Charlotte and the Department of Global, International & Area Studies.

In addition to our traditional partners, the present installment of the series is made possible in collaboration with the IDEAS Center in the College of Engineering.

Faculty are encouraged to attend with their students and/or contact OIP at international@uncc.edu to arrange for an extra-credit sign-in sheet.

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| “Global Rail Transportation and the Opportunities for the United States” | Wednesday, February 19 3:30-4:30 pm EPIC G287 |
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The Spring 2014 International Speaker Series will continue on Wednesday, February 19 with Dr. Stuart Hillmansen, Electrical Energy Systems faculty and

OIP Employee Nominated For UNC Award

Marian Beane, Senior Coordinator for International Engagement in the Office of International Programs, was UNC Charlotte’s nominee for the 2013 Erskine Bowles Staff Service Award.



The award is presented to a permanent, full-time UNC staff member who has shown exemplary understanding, empathy and devotion to mankind, and

whose accomplishments are consistent with the goals exemplified by Bowles during his tenure as UNC president and in accordance with the University’s public service mission.

The UNC Charlotte Staff Council formally recognized the 40-year veteran as the University’s nominee last year. Jim Kay, Staff Council President, stated Beane was an inspiration to all staff members, and while not the statewide recipient of the Bowles Award, she was “our winner” and an example of what it means to be part of the 49er family.

“[Beane’s] reach around the globe extends much farther than probably anyone on campus or in the entire state system simply due to her longevity and unique role as a greeter, counselor and mother figure to thousands of international students and scholars from every corner of the world,” said Kelly Franklin, a colleague of Beane who nominated her.

Beane thanked the council for the recognition. She said it was a joy and pleasure to work on such a welcoming campus, to which the Staff Council and all University employees contributed. She added that international students appreciated the University’s welcoming atmosphere.

Rudy Anderson, Director of Internal Communications at Winston-Salem State University, was the 2013 recipient, as selected by the UNC Staff Assembly. Nominations for the award are sought each August.

Save The Date: 2014 International Festival

The date for UNC Charlotte’s 38th annual IFEST is set for Saturday, September 20, 2014.

This annual event brings together more than 20, 000 students, faculty, staff, and community members to participate in a celebration of countries and cultures

from around the world as represented by the UNC Charlotte international and greater Charlotte community. Whether you are a regular attendee or this is your first time, do mark your calendar and join the Office of International Programs at this year’s Festival.



ISSO Orientation Programs Support International Students' Transition

For Spring 2014 UNC Charlotte welcomed 145 newly enrolled students representing 13 countries. This cohort of new students consists of undergraduate- and graduate, degree-seeking students along with international exchange students who are at UNC Charlotte for one or two semesters.

The orientation programs facilitated by the International Student/Scholar Office (ISSO) each semester deliver necessary immigration information and cultural adjustment support to newly enrolled international students. Programs are designed in a two- and three- day format—for graduate and undergraduate students respectively—to help international students transition successfully to new cultural and academic environments.

In addition to addressing the immigration regulations specific to their visa type, ISSO staff and other campus representatives share practical details for living and studying in the United States, such as: campus policies and procedures, support services available on campus, resources in the local community, and guidance on practical matters (i.e., banking, apartment rental, transportation services, driver's licenses, etc.).

Ruchita Kshirsagar, a newly enrolled graduate student from India, commented via email, "The way you handled yesterday's orientation was really commendable. I heartily appreciate [the] work of ISSO!"

UNC Charlotte is home to nearly 1,700 visiting scholars and international students.

The University's international numbers rank the Niner Nation as the fourth largest institution for international enrollment in the state of North Carolina! OIP looks forward to the continued growth of the international community.



Save the Date for the UNC Charlotte Study Abroad Photo Exhibit

Opening reception: Tuesday, April 29 from 4:30-6:30 pm

Celebrate the opening of the 5th annual Study Abroad Student Photo Exhibit featuring photography from UNC Charlotte students taken while abroad and entered into one of five categories – Defining Moment, Landscape, Portrait, Self Portrait, and Travelling 49ers. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Exhibit will be shown in Student Union Art Gallery through May 2, 2014. Contact: Office of Education Abroad at edabroad@unc.edu.

Brazilian Artist's Monumental Installation



An exhibit of weathered plywood emulating forms found in nature and the human body by Brazilian artist Henrique Oliveira is on display in the Center City Projective Eye Gallery through March 19.

Oliveira was in Charlotte for a full month to build the monumental installation which protrudes from walls and wraps around architectural structures to cover the 22-foot gallery walls.

An opening reception was held on Friday, January 31 and featured a collaborative performance with music and dance inspired by the

work by College of Arts + Architecture faculty John Allemeier and E.E. Balcos.

Oliveira's installations and flatworks have been seen in exhibits throughout Brazil, including the São Paulo Biennial, as well as in Paris, Mexico (the Monterrey Biennial), and in the USA. For more information, please visit www.henriqueoliveira.com/.

The exhibit runs January 31-March 19. The Projective Eye Gallery is located in the UNC Charlotte Center City building at 320 E. 9th Street. Gallery hours are 9:00 am to 9:00 pm daily.

Lorenz Joins Office of Education Abroad as New Assistant Director



Joining the Office of International Programs on January 6, Beth Lorenz is the newest member, assuming the role of Assistant Director of the Office of Education Abroad. Lorenz comes to UNC Charlotte from Northern Kentucky University (NKU) in the greater Cincinnati region.

Lorenz is an alumna of NKU, receiving a B.S. in Applied Cultural Studies. As an undergraduate student, she participated in study abroad programs to Brazil, Ireland, and twice to Mexico. She began her career as an Academic Advisor with NKU's Academic Advising Resource Center, assisting undecided and undeclared students. After four years, she transferred to the Office of Education Abroad as the Study Abroad Advisor, where she was able to return to her first love: sharing international experiences with students.

While working at NKU, she completed her M.S. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and studied abroad again in India. Through her work with the Office of Education Abroad, she co-directed the Alternative Spring Break program, returning to Mexico for a third time. She also worked as the Assistant Director for the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad's London Winter program. After five years with the Office of Education Abroad at NKU, she is pursuing new directions and perspectives at UNC Charlotte. She is very excited to be in the Charlotte area and to be working with the Office of International Programs.

Bank of America Intern Works With Global Team

James Cicali, senior Software and Information Systems major, interns with Bank of America. His role includes collaborating with a team of interns from around the globe, using video conferencing and other technologies to stay in touch. Cicali will take a full time position with Bank of America in May. The following is a reflection of his internship.

As a six year veteran who spent half of my career working hand-in-hand with foreign nationals, I believed once I transitioned back into civilian life that my opportunities to build international relationships would be all but gone. Oh, how wrong I was.

In January 2013 I was hired by one of UNC Charlotte's most promising internships with Bank of America's Applied Technology Program. I knew Bank of America was huge, diverse and spanned over multiple continents, but had no expectations that as an intern I would be any part of that. Of course, Bank of America blew my expectations out of the water. Our team consists of 15 interns coming from all walks of life, five employees

in India, three in Costa Rica and two in Mexico.

Much like when I was in the military, we all work together to complete the mission of our team. Our team members in North and Central America are in constant contact with one another to provide seamless and consistent service for over 60 critical bank applications from 8 am to 8 pm. We then have a clean hand off between teams and pass the ball to our guardians of the night, our team in India, which provides the same level of support from 10 pm to 8 am. While we all live and work in different locations, we behave as one unified team with the help of established communication processes and new technology, like telepresence video



meetings, which allow us to meet face-to-face.

Having a global team allows us to optimize the support we provide our customers during all hours of the day, while providing each of us with an opportunity to diversify our own multi-cultural experiences and making Bank of America's Applied Technology Program a solid example for all global corporations.

Phi Beta Delta's 26th Annual Induction Ceremony



The Mu Chapter of the Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society inducted 11 faculty and staff and 29 students at its annual meeting held during the celebration of UNC Charlotte's International Education Week (November 18-22, 2013).

The Chapter also recognized the World Affairs Council of Charlotte for its many and diverse programs that focus on education and world affairs. Ljubomir Stambuk, President and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, was present to receive the honorary membership and to deliver the ceremony's keynote address. The Council was founded in 1983 as an outreach program of UNC Charlotte and the Office of International Programs and a strong partnership continues to be evident.



Cultural Ambassador Program Increases Cross-Cultural Understanding

The UNC Charlotte Cultural Ambassador Program provides opportunity for information sharing and cultural understanding through dialogue and conversation among diverse students in a university classroom or workshop setting. During this past fall, 39 international students from 19 different countries served as Cultural Ambassadors by assisting with presentations in 14 different classroom settings. The topics of conversation ranged from the challenges of adapting to living in the USA to specific diversity topics such as male vs. female roles and relationships, ways of communicating, and advice for effective interaction with someone from the student's home culture.

At the conclusion of the semester the Cultural Ambassadors were hosted at a reception during which they received a certificate of appreciation and heard selected comments on what had been learned during the classroom dialogue. These comments were often given in the form of advice to others in future programs, "Be careful of the judgments that you have based on the outer appearances of an individual," and also considered what lessons could be taken from their experiences, "I learned that we are

different in many ways and yet share some similar things."

During the reception the international students spoke about the sense of pride they felt in being able to represent their country. They saw it as not only an opportunity but a duty to help US American students gain a more complete understanding of their respective countries and cultures.

Faculty and staff interested in hosting a Cultural Ambassador classroom or workshop presentation may contact OIP at international@unc.edu. Presentations are tailored to the general or specific topic of the classroom.



Intercultural Outreach Programs Hosts Twenty Education Students for 3-Week Program



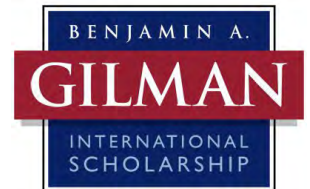
Intercultural Outreach Programs (IOP) was pleased to host 20 pre-service educators for a Teacher Education and Practice Program, focusing on themes related to comparative education. Students came to UNC Charlotte from across Australia through International Programs long-standing partner, AIM Overseas. The primary objective of this program was for participants to learn about the American education system and to critically examine education as it relates to distinct cultures and societal influences.

In addition to learning from several College of Education faculty as well as a handful of area practitioners, students visited six area schools and enjoyed a student placement opportunity for their final week of the program. This year, IOP was also pleased to establish several new relationships with local public schools. Both Vance High School and James Martin Middle School graciously agreed to host all of the middle and high school educators while Carolina International School, a historical partner, served as the placement for elementary teachers. In addition to their placements, students worked together on a capstone project which focused on comparing and contrasting major themes in 21st century education through both an Australian and American lens.

Partnerships with area schools, UNC Charlotte faculty, area practitioners, the Charlotte Mecklenburg School district, as well as the rest of the UNC Charlotte community proved to be invaluable and enabled IOP to deliver a high-quality and life-changing experience for the Australian educators.

UNC Charlotte Student Wins National Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

The Office of International Programs is proud to announce that a UNC Charlotte student is a Spring 2014 recipient of the national Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. Yu Boudil, a double major in Pre-Public Health and Japanese, will be traveling to Tokyo, Japan to study at Sophia University for two semesters starting in April.



For many students, studying abroad is the most influential and memorable part of their undergraduate career. Each year at UNC Charlotte, approximately 550 students apply to study abroad at over 100 universities in more than 50 countries. Unfortunately, many interested in studying abroad are not aware that scholarships are offered specifically for study outside the United States.

Funded by the US Department of State, the Gilman scholarship was created to support students who intend to go abroad. This national scholarship is highly competitive and requires students to write several essays and display good academic standing, as well as financial need.

For more information on this or other scholarship opportunities, encourage students to contact the Office of Education Abroad at edabroad@unc.edu or 704.687.7747.

Students from Saudi Arabia at UNC Charlotte in Large Numbers

UNC Charlotte has long hosted international students sponsored by their governments, but in recent years there has been a large uptick in students from Saudi Arabia, most of them beneficiaries of full scholarships from the King Abdullah Scholarship program initiated in 2005. Currently over 70,000 Saudi students are studying in the US. According to the annual Open Doors survey by the Institute of International Education, Saudi Arabian numbers have risen dramatically and Saudi Arabia is now the fourth leading country of origin of international students in the US behind only China, India, and South Korea.



About 150 Saudi nationals are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs at UNC Charlotte and about 160 in the English Language Training Institute—with most of those hoping to eventually matriculate into degree programs. In fact, the number of Saudis in the US is skewed heavily towards intensive English programs like ELTI, as their need for more proficiency is often acute. The government of Saudi Arabia allows up to 18 months of full-time English study to help students gain enough proficiency to survive in US academic settings. According to ELTI director Kelly Franklin, many students enter the ELTI program at very low levels and find that even 18 months is not a reasonable amount of time to achieve enough language skill to tackle academic subjects.

“While many students from the middle East are adept at oral communication, their reading and writing skills often fall far short of the level needed for the most common majors being pursued, which are engineering and business programs,” said Franklin.

A similar scholarship program operates out of Kuwait and that country is the second most-common country of origin for ELTI students.

As with all ELTI students, the ELTI faculty strives not only to raise the English proficiency as rapidly as possible, but to help students acclimate to other academic standards including note-taking, research writing, critical thinking and different cultural assumptions about plagiarism, individual vs. group work and other concepts.

Conversation Partners Program Returns with Former and New Volunteers



Two English Language Training Institute (ELTI) volunteers have returned this semester to continue providing conversation practice during lunch and break times for international students hoping to improve their general English skills. Javier Negrete, a first-year psychology major from Newton, NC became a dedicated Conversation Partner last Fall after meeting an ELTI student at freshman orientation. He will continue his worldly endeavors with the program this Spring. Although Jonathan Bolden has graduated from UNC Charlotte with a Spanish degree, he cannot stay away from the program either. He will be back this week to answer questions, tell jokes, and get to know some of the ELTI students from Saudi

Arabia, Korea, Venezuela, Kuwait, and other countries.

The Conversation Partners program, coordinated by ELTI Administrative Assistant Jessica Vang, is open to all ELTI students who want to improve their English skills, share culture notes, and establish friendships. Last semester the program began with only four American student volunteers, but by December, there were ten. Spring semester is off to a strong start with six volunteers thus far. Groups typically gather at lunchtime in the second floor atrium of the College of Health and Human Services building – which becomes a lively place with lots of sharing of conversation, food, laughter, and culture.

For more information on the Conversation Partners program or other volunteer opportunities, please visit elti.uncc.edu.

2014 Women's & Gender Studies Speaker: Michael Kimmell

Among the many programs hosted through the Multicultural Resource Center, the Office of International Programs is pleased to highlight the upcoming program which supports students' growth in self and cultural awareness. Dr. Michael Kimmel, founding editor of interdisciplinary scholar journal, *Men and Masculinities*, will be featured as the 2013 Women's & Gender Studies speaker. Dr. Kimmel's current research is a comparative study of the extreme right: White Supremacists and neo-Nazis in the United States, Germany, and Scandinavia.

The lecture takes place March 11 at 3:00 pm in McKnight Hall. For more information, visit mrc.uncc.edu.

Administration

Joël Gallegos, *Assistant Provost for International Programs*
Christina Sanchez, *Associate Director of International Programs*
Mary Zink, *Executive Assistant*
Sandra Anderson, *Business Manager*
Esther Hollington, *Business Services Coordinator*
Joanne Zhang, *Business Services Coordinator*
Marian Beane, *Senior Coordinator for International Engagement*
Ben Farnham, *Information Technology Manager*
Maureen White Gibson, *Coordinator of International Initiatives*
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