Welcome From Assistant Provost For International Programs

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that your semester so far has been productive and full of international activity. As always, I am pleased to report a high level of international engagement on our campus. During this semester, we were delighted to receive one of the largest incoming groups of international degree seeking students in UNC Charlotte history. I know you join me in recognizing the value of our international students’ presence on campus.

Recently, we celebrated the 40th year anniversary of our campus’ oldest tradition: the International Festival. We were delighted to see so many faculty, staff and students participate in making this one of our community’s most rich and multicultural celebrations. This is truly a collective effort and we greatly value the contributions of countless individuals across institutional divisions.

Also this fall, we pledged our institutional support of “Generation Study Abroad.” This is a national initiative aimed at doubling the number of American students studying abroad by the end of the decade. It is our hope that we as an institution continue to strengthen the opportunities that our students have to better understand our world’s independence through an international experience. As part of our pledge and participation in this important program, we have committed to identifying additional resources that will enable students increased access to more types and kinds of experiences overseas.

Lastly, we are extremely excited about our upcoming International Education Week. I strongly encourage you to attend and participate in as many of our events as possible. Increasingly, colleges and departments are also excited about this initiative and are interested in offering programs that encourage their students to engage in experiences that deepen their intercultural awareness and knowledge about the world.

I wish you all a wonderful end of semester and invite you to participate in the Office of International Programs activities in the upcoming year.

Best wishes,

Office of International Programs | UNC Charlotte

Arnd Wächter Presents His Feature Documentary "The Dialogue"

Director Arnd Wächter will return to UNC Charlotte for a screening of The Dialogue on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:00pm in the Student Union Theater. This is the second documentary in his Crossing Borders Films’ intercultural trilogy.

The Dialogue is a documentary that follows four US American and four Chinese university students as they travel through Hong Kong and Southwest China. Together the students explore each others’ backgrounds and learn cross-cultural communication skills. Their shared travel adventures, the emotion of culture shock, honest confrontations, and discoveries about each other become doorways to deepen their understanding of the world, of themselves, and of styles of communication that are able to bridge cultural differences. The film provides a glimpse into the barriers that make cross-cultural communication difficult and often non-productive. They also highlight skills of open, honest communication that help break down those barriers. Wächter will facilitate a discussion directly following the film.

This event is sponsored by the Office of International Programs with support from the Chancellor’s Diversity Fund and the Multicultural Resource Center. This exciting opportunity will be the keynote event for UNC Charlotte’s celebration of International Education Week (November 16th – 20th). International Education Week is a joint initiative between the US Department of State and the US Department of Education that is intended to promote the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. UNC Charlotte will celebrate with a variety of events throughout the week. A full IEW calendar is available at oip.uncc.edu/IntlEdWk.
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2015

A week of events focusing on FILM, LANGUAGE, FOOD, CULTURE, HISTORY, and other international activities!

ALL WEEK

A new cultural cuisine featured each day at Bistro 49
International cooking demos and tastings each day at SoVi 1:00pm-2:00pm
Where in the World? Trivia Contest and Language Tables
MON-FRI 12:00-2:00pm Student Union 1st floor

oip.uncc.edu/IntEdWk
IEW Events for November 16

Short Term Study Abroad Program Development Workshop
CHHS 207
11:00am-12:30pm
Faculty who are interested in learning how to develop, implement, and lead a short-term program abroad are invited to join the Office of Education Abroad for this workshop on short-term program development. To confirm your attendance, or for more information, please contact Kelly Mannes, Assistant Coordinator of Short Term Programs in the Office of Education Abroad, at kmannes@uncc.edu.

“Where in the World?” Trivia Contest
Student Union 1st Floor Rotunda
12:00pm-2:00pm (Monday - Friday)
Win $1,000 for a UNC Charlotte study abroad opportunity. Participate in the “Where in the World” contest to test your knowledge. Students have a chance to win various prizes including a $1,000 scholarship for a UNC Charlotte approved study abroad experience.

Interested in Becoming a Language Teacher? You Should Be.
CHHS room 128
1:30pm-3:30pm
If you have ever considered pursuing a career teaching a second or foreign language, this session is for you. Perhaps you have wondered about teaching English as a second language (referred to as ESL) in the U.S. or teaching English abroad as a foreign language (referred to as EFL). Alternatively, teaching languages such as Spanish or French in the U.S. is another option. ESL instructors from the English Language Training Institute (ELTI) will provide an overview of the wide variety of opportunities in the field of ESL, and the College of Education will inform participants about training and credentialing opportunities at UNC Charlotte for aspiring ESL and foreign language teachers. For more information, Contact Scott Kissau at spkissau@uncc.edu.

The Political Ecology of the Middle East
McKnight Hall, Cone Center
7:30pm-9:00pm
For centuries there has been this motion of a lack of stability throughout the Middle East. This issue becomes much more important in the context of the recent events and the rise of extremist throughout the region. This event traces the history of Middle East struggles and conflicts, in the context of educational and cultural practices through both a presentation and a discussion panel with acclaimed scholars. Keynote speech by Professor Bill Brandon, a retired professor from UNC Charlotte and a well-known name in Middle East Studies. He served for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Shiraz in the 1960s. For more information, Contact M. Taghi Mostafavi at taghi@uncc.edu.

International Cooking Demos
South Village (SoVi) Dining Hall – Chefs’ Table
1:00pm-2:00pm (Monday-Friday)
OIP is pleased to share that throughout IEW, Chartwell will be providing international cooking demos in South Village (SoVi) from 1pm - 2pm on the following days:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Meal</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Fresh Mozzarella</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Spanish Croquettes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Spanakopita (Greece)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>French Crepes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Japanese Sushi</td>
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IEW Events for November 17

**Education Abroad Workshop for Academic Advisors**

**CHHS**

**12:00pm-1:30pm**

This workshop is for academic advisors, faculty, and staff at UNC Charlotte who would like to learn more about the opportunities students have to study overseas. This session serves as a “myth-buster” and will cover topics such as academics, cost, program options, and other non-study experiences such as internships and volunteering abroad. For more information contact Beth Lorenz at Elorenz3@uncc.edu

**Cultural Health Assessment: For Current and Aspiring Healthcare Providers**

**CHHS 207**

**1:00pm-1:45pm**

The program is aimed at healthcare providers and those intending to pursue a career in healthcare in learning about cultural health assessment tools for working with patients of different cultures. By learning about cultural health assessment, participants will have an increased awareness of how culture plays a role in health beliefs and practices so that they can better serve their patients and provide more inclusive and respectful care. For more information contact Dr. Ilana Chertok at ichertok@uncc.edu

**Crossing Borders: Classroom Conversation with director Arnd Wächter**

**3:30pm-4:30pm**

**Student Union 266**

Prior to the 6:00 film screening of The Dialogue, award-winning director, Arnd Wächter, will facilitate an intercultural communication workshop for students. Mr. Wächter will be utilizing content from his Crossing Borders Films trilogy.

**Film screening and discussion of the documentary, “The Dialogue” with the director Arnd Wächter**

**Student Union Theater**

**6:00pm-8:00pm**

The second film of Crossing Borders Films’ intercultural trilogy, The Dialogue was created by Crossing Borders Films and co-produced by Michigan State University. The Dialogue is documentary that follows four American and four Chinese university students as they travel together through Hong Kong and Southwest China. Together the students explore each others’ backgrounds and learn cross-cultural communication skills. Their shared travel adventures, the emotion of culture shock, honest confrontations and discoveries about each other become doorways to deepen their understanding of the world, of themselves and of styles of communication that are able to bridge cultural differences. The film provides a glimpse into the barriers that make cross-cultural communication difficult and often non-productive. They also highlight skills of open, honest communication that help break down those barriers.

The screening will be followed by a conversation facilitated by director Arnd Wächter.

For more information on the film, see [http://www.cb-films.org/thedialogue](http://www.cb-films.org/thedialogue).

Sponsored by the Office of International Programs with support from the Chancellor’s Diversity Fund and the Multicultural Resource Center.
Boren Scholarship Workshop
10:00am - 11:00am Cone 111 (Thursday)

Boren Scholarships, an initiative of the National Security Education Program, provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. undergraduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests, and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. The countries of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded.

In exchange for funding, Boren Scholars commit to working in the federal government for at least one year after graduation. UNC Charlotte encourages students studying less common languages and in areas of the world referenced above to apply for a Boren Scholarship. There will be a workshop on campus on November 19 in Cone 111 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

Questions about the scholarship can be directed to Brad Sekulich at sekulich@uncc.edu

Panel Discussion: Refugees and Immigration in Europe and the Americas
Rowe 130
3:30pm-4:45pm (Wednesday)

Speakers include:
- Muriel Blaive, Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (ÚSTR) Prague, Czech Republic
- Representative of the Latin American Coalition of Charlotte
- Jill Massino, UNC Charlotte Department of History
- John Cox, UNC Charlotte Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Center and Department of GIAS

Fulfilling the Promise of Peace: A Conversation With Local Author and Grassroots Activist Sam Wazan
Macy 110
12:30pm-1:30pm (Wednesday)

Sam Wazan draws on his life experiences as a survivor of life in a combat-zone during the Lebanese civil war, to talk about the prospects for intercultural understanding and peace in the modern world. Through excerpts from his novel and personal anecdotes, Mr. Wazan will talk about what it is like to live in a society devastated by war between radicalized militant fundamentalists, offering insights into how normal citizens become ideologically radicalized, as well as how the courage to practice peace can show us a way out of these conflicts. Arguing that peace is not the opposite of war and that winning peace is not achieved on a battlefield, he instead proposes that the most formidable frontier for achieving peace is the family room. He makes a case for the necessity of intercultural and interfaith understanding as a way of fulfilling the promise of humanity. His objective is to motivate people to unsubscribe from the prejudicial terms that he sees as the causes of daily violence and crimes against humanity, and to instead be inspired by an outlook on life that emphasizes the harmony for all living beings. For more information, please visit www.samwazan.com

International Coffe Hour
Faculty/Staff Dining Room of Prospector
4:00pm - 6:00pm (Thursday)

Meet people from around the world, share ideas, and relax with coffee and refreshments! This event is sponsored by the International Student/Scholar Office in the Office of International Programs and is open to all International and US students, faculty and staff. Bring a friend or meet one there!

Intercultural Adjustment Workshop for International Students
CHHS 207
2:00pm - 3:00pm (Friday)

This workshop will give international students an opportunity to share some of the challenges they are encountering in adjusting to life in the U.S. or are anticipating when returning to their home countries. Differences in cultural values and norms between the U.S. and other countries (i.e., individualist vs. collectivist societies) will be discussed.

Samba and Beyond – A Sampling of Brazilian Music
CHHS 128
12:00pm-1:30pm (Wednesday)

Want to expand your repertoire of Brazilian music? Come, listen, and discover the wide array and rich history of Brazilian music, featuring recordings, videos and a live demonstration with Brazilian instruments!

IEW Events for November 18 -20

Panel Discussion: Refugees and Immigration in Europe and the Americas
Rowe 130
3:30pm-4:45pm (Wednesday)

Samba and Beyond – A Sampling of Brazilian Music
CHHS 128
12:00pm-1:30pm (Wednesday)
The 8th Annual International Speaker Series

Dr. Lyle Goldstein opened the 8th annual International Speaker Series with a presentation covering the economic, political, and social relationship between the USA and China. Goldstein is an Associate Professor in the China Maritime Studies Institute established at the US Naval War College. Goldstein discussed his most recent book, Meeting China Halfway: How to Defuse the Emerging US-China Rivalry.

Join us in December for the next installation of the series. The Globalization Editor of The Economist, Matthew Bishop, will speak on December 2nd in Atkins Library, Halton Reading Room on Thursday from 3:30pm – 5:00pm. Matthew Bishop is the Globalization Editor of The Economist magazine and author of “The Road from Ruin: How to Renew Capitalism and Put America Back on Top” and “Philanthrocapitalism: How Giving Can Save the World.” Bishop provides insight regarding the historical context behind the current global economic challenges and the importance of impact investing and social entrepreneurship in the global economy.

The annual International Speaker Series is presented by UNC Charlotte’s Atkins Library, the Department of Global, International, and Area Studies, the Office of International Programs, and the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. For more information, please refer to our website: http://oip.uncc.edu/calendar/international-speaker-series.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Thursday, December 3, 2015
Matthew Bishop, Globalization Editor of The Economist
3:30-5:00pm
Atkins Library, Halton Reading Room

Thursday, February 11, 2016
Robert Walker, President of the Population Institute
3:30-5:00pm
Atkins Library, Halton Reading Room

Boren Scholarship And Fellowship Applications Open

Boren Scholarships, an initiative of the National Security Education Program, provide unique funding opportunities for US undergraduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to US interests, and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. The countries of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded.

Boren Scholars represent a vital pool of highly motivated individuals who wish to work in the federal national security arena. In exchange for funding, Boren Scholars commit to working in the federal government for at least one year after graduation.

UNC Charlotte undergraduates apply for the Boren Scholarship through the Office of Education Abroad. The campus deadline for applications is January 19, 2016 at 5:00pm. Interviews will then be arranged and students will be given the chance to revise their applications in time for the national application deadline of February 9, 2016.

Boren fellowships are for graduate students. Boren Fellowship applicants design their own study plans and may combine domestic language study with overseas study or research. Study of a foreign language appropriate to the identified country or region must be an integral part of each application proposal.
Summer 2015 OEA Faculty-Led Programs

The Office of Education Abroad, in conjunction with a variety of colleges throughout the university, administered nineteen faculty-led education abroad programs during the summer of 2015, sending a total of 220 UNC Charlotte students and a total of 19 programs to a variety of exciting locations on five continents around the globe.

Summer 2015 offerings included an interesting mix of both previously held and new programs. The College of Arts + Architecture ran a graduate-level program in which students explored urban design in Rio de Janeiro. The Belk College of Business offered graduate programs in Turkey, Germany, and the Czech Republic, in addition to undergraduate opportunities focused on international management and economics in the heart of Tuscany, international insurance in Switzerland, and business and finance in Spain. The College of Education continued an existing initiative for students in 2015, which focused on exploring diversity in South African schools, while the College of Health and Human Services developed a new program in conjunction with Venture which sent students to the Andes Mountains of Bolivia for a service-learning expedition. Finally, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offered a variety of summer program opportunities in 2015. Some existing program options enabled students to explore topics such as Spanish language in Costa Rica, German language in Germany, and public relations and sociology in various locations in the United Kingdom. Additionally, the college offered seven new programs during the 2015 summer term, which focused on urban development in Shanghai, volunteerism in El Salvador, health and culture in Russia, language and culture in France, archaeology in Cyprus, and health care and urban agriculture in South Africa.

UNC Charlotte has seen significant growth in recent years in both student and faculty interest in summer education abroad programs. If you are a faculty member interested in learning more about developing your own summer program abroad, please contact the Office of Education Abroad at edabroad@uncc.edu for further information.

Phi Beta Delta

Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars, is an academic and professional honor society that has its purpose to recognize scholars with achievement and experience in the areas of international education and international scholarship. It also serves as a means for encouraging interdisciplinary interchange, and serves as a catalyst for developing a network among faculty, students, and staff involved in scholarship internationally.

UNC Charlotte's Mu Chapter has hosted the annual induction of members and programs since 1987 to tangibly demonstrate the institution's commitment to and support of international education and scholarship.

Dr. Rachawan Wongtrirat, OIP's Assistant Director for International Education Initiatives, is the new Chapter Coordinator. All are initiated to welcome our new inductees at the annual meeting and member induction ceremony on Thursday, Nov 17 at 3:30pm.

For more information, activities, and membership opportunities, please visit http://pbd.uncc.edu/

UNC Charlotte International Student Population Continues To Soar

The USA enrolled a record number of international students during the 2013-2014 school year. International students now make up about four percent of all university students in the country with the number having grown by more than 70% since 2000. We remain the global leader in international education.

UNC Charlotte is no exception to this national trend. Our international student enrollment has increased 31% since Fall 2013. The University is now home to about 1,900 international students who are pursuing undergraduate (432) and graduate degrees (1,213), or who are here for shorter periods of study under various exchange agreements (66). Additionally, ELTI remains active in providing language training to 172 non-matriculated students. While 80 countries are represented, the majority of our students come from India, China, and Saudi Arabia. UNC Charlotte ranks in the top four in North Carolina and in the top 125 nationally, in terms of international student enrollment.
40th Annual UNC Charlotte International Festival Fireworks Display

The 40th Annual UNC Charlotte International Festival took place on Saturday, October 17th. One of UNC Charlotte's longest standing traditions, the International Festival was founded in 1975 with only a few country booths situated around the Belk Tower. This event has grown exponentially along with the region's diversity throughout its 40 year tenure. This year's event attracted nearly 20,000 attendees and showcased over 60 cultures through cultural display booths, dance presentations, and the Parade of Nations – a “fashion show” in which over 150 cultural representatives marched while wearing their country’s traditional clothing.

This year's International Festival was extended to feature a special signature event to recognize the significant impact this cultural celebration has had on UNC Charlotte and the greater Charlotte community throughout the past four decades.

Upon the close of the traditional International Festival at 6:00pm, attendees gathered outside of the Student Activities Center to join in a procession over to the Irwin Belk Track & Field House for a 40th Anniversary Celebration program. The UNC Charlotte Kung Fu Club led the crowd and performed a Chinese Lion Dance in front of the Student Union along the way.

Approximately 1,500 attendees gathered at the fieldhouse to enjoy a performance by Triveni Indian Student Association and an acknowledgment of the longest standing and largest cultural celebration at UNC Charlotte by Assistant Provost for International Programs, Mr. Joël Gallegos. The founder of the International Festival, Ms. Marian Beane, was recognized and shared remarks. The celebration closed with a fireworks display featuring music from around the world. Pictures from this and past UNC Charlotte International Festivals can be found at [http://ifest.uncc.edu/photos](http://ifest.uncc.edu/photos).

40th Annual UNC Charlotte International Festival & Festival Fun Days

The Office of International Programs worked with campus partners to hold "Festival Fun Days" leading up to the cultural celebration in order to build student excitement and recruit volunteers for this landmark anniversary. Each Festival Fun Day featured international cuisine in Crown Commons and South Village (SoVi) dining halls and the distribution of fortune cookies donated by UNC Charlotte’s Auxiliary Services, along with other activities to further engage the campus community:

- Friday, September 18th – Students took pictures with International Festival signs as they “sat on top of world” on Venture's giant globe ball in the CHHS/COED plaza.
- Friday, September 25th – The UNC Charlotte Kung Fu Club performed Chinese Lion Dances in the SoVi dining hall and the Student Union.
- Thursday, October 8th – OIP student workers hosted an International Festival volunteer sign-up table that featured a trivia wheel, fortune cookies, and prizes on the steps of the Student Union.

In addition to the help of 400+ student volunteers, the International Festival is made possible with support from several campus and community partners including Campus Police, Chartwells Dining Services, Cone University Center, Facilities, Auxiliary Services, the Office of Business Affairs, the Office of International Programs, and Student Union Activities & Recreation. More information about the International Festival can be found at [http://ifest.uncc.edu](http://ifest.uncc.edu). One of the biggest attractions for families at the UNC Charlotte International Festival is a giant 20’ diameter Earth Balloon that attendees can enter to get a unique look at the oceans and continents from inside of the world.

For the second year in a row, the Office of International Programs worked with Annette Conroy of the Military & Global Leadership Academy at Marie G. Davis (MGLA), a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) K-12 Magnet Program with a Global Studies focus, to coordinate the usage of the Earth Balloon for local MGLA and other K-12 institutions during the week leading up to the International Festival.

MGLA faculty created specialized lesson plans for over 300 MGLA students who were able to share in the unique learning experience of seeing Earth from the inside. Additional K-12 institutions including St. Mark's Day Care and the Learning Collaborative visited the MGLA campus to participate. In total 500 CMS students experimented the world from within the globe.
OIP Continues Global Engagement with CMS

One of the biggest attractions for families at the UNC Charlotte International Festival is a giant 20’ diameter Earth Balloon that attendees can enter to get a unique look at the oceans and continents from inside of the world.

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MGLA faculty created specialized lesson plans for over 300 MGLA students who were able to share in the unique learning experience of seeing Earth from the inside. Additional K-12 institutions including St. Mark's Day Care and the Learning Collaborative visited the MGLA campus to participate. In total 500 CMS students experimented the world from within the globe.
On October 13, 2015, UNC Charlotte students and alumni submitted nine Fulbright applications, the most ever submitted from UNC Charlotte. The submissions included Research Grants, English Teaching Assistantships, and a Fine Arts application for the LAMBLA program in London. Students represented the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Health and Human Services, The College of Arts + Architecture, and The William Lee States College of Engineering.

The student Fulbright program is administered through OIP’s Office of Education Abroad (OEA). The annual application deadline falls in mid-to-late September, after which students are interviewed, given the opportunity to revise their proposals, and then submit them before the mid-October national deadline. The Fulbright Committee is made up of former Fulbright recipients and competitive scholarship advisors on campus.

Each spring OEA conducts a Fulbright workshop to outline the Fulbright process and help students prepare for the application each spring. Students are encouraged to begin preparing their applications 4 – 6 months in advance of the September campus application deadline. Fulbright grants are open to graduating seniors, graduate and post graduate students, and alumni. Students interested in preparing a competitive Fulbright application should look into the Fulbright well in advance of their junior or senior years.

For more information on the student Fulbright please write the OEA Director, Mr. Brad Sekulich at sekulich@uncc.edu.

15 STEM Students Study At UNC Charlotte Through Prestigious Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program in 2015-16

Three specialized units within UNC Charlotte’s Office of International Programs have partnered to host scholarship recipients from Brazil for the 2015-16 academic year. The initiative, led by OIP’s Intercultural Outreach Programs, welcomed 10 visiting Brazilian undergraduate students studying in STEM fields to UNC Charlotte this June and an additional five students this August. The students’ studies are funded by the prestigious Brazilian Scientific Mobility (BSMP) scholarship program and facilitated by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

The first group of 10 scholarship recipients entered summer studies at the UNC Charlotte English Language Training Institute where they worked to enhance their academic and language skills in preparation for the Fall 2015 semester. All 15 students are currently attending university classes alongside UNC Charlotte students in the following departments: School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Systems Engineering, and Engineering Management. The students will remain at UNC Charlotte through May 2016; their enrollment is being managed by the International Student and Scholar Office with academic advisement taking place within each respective department. Before returning home, the scholarship recipients will enter internships in their respective fields of study in Summer 2016 at various institutions around the United States.

The Brazil Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP) initiative is part of the Brazilian government’s larger effort to grant 100,000 scholarships to the best students from Brazil for study abroad at the world’s top universities. The program provides an experience at a US college or university to a diverse group of emerging Brazilian student leaders, widening the academic and research exchange between the USA and Brazil. More information about the program can be found at: http://www.iie.org/Programs/Brazil-Scientific-Mobility/About.
ELTI's 30 Years Of Experiential Learning With Venture

The English Language Training Institute (ELTI) has been collaborating with Venture for about 30 years, starting back in the early 1980's when the small program took about 15 students out to the high ropes course and participated in a team-building activity that took both students and teachers high up into the trees of the campus.

The partnership has grown to include other activities since the initial partnership. At the beginning of Fall 2015, ELTI faculty member, Sarah Siddique, teamed up with Venture to take a small group of international students learning English on a caving expedition in the mountains of Tennessee. The ESL students from China, Saudi Arabia, and Japan attended an information meeting before the trip, which prepared them for the adventure by helping them register and pay for the trip, taught them new vocabulary they would need to participate in the caving adventure, explained the equipment they would need, and answered questions these novice cavers had.

The adventure was a great success, and the language issues proved not to be a barrier. At one point during the cave exploration, Asstant Director for Venture Trips, Brian Holcomb, had the students turn off their flashlights and sit in the dark. Each person had to describe his or her favorite part of the adventure. Culture, race, language, and nationality disappeared in the darkness as the students relied only on their new, imperfect language and words to describe their feelings and excitement.

ELTI students have also joined domestic US students on waterfall hikes and whitewater rafting trips—and are planning more adventures. The experiential learning offered through Venture Programs takes ESL students out of the classroom and exposes them to other elements of the US culture, to different people in the community, and to new activities in the world. More info about Venture is available at https://venture.uncc.edu/

Global Gateways – Connect Globally, Engage Locally!

Global Gateways, a residential program located in the Greek Village, was founded in Fall 2013 with the goals of creating a welcoming, dynamic, and inter-culturally engaging environment for female students.

For Fall 2015, the Global Gateways hosted 28 domestic and international female students in the house from various academic disciplines and classifications who strive to learn and engage with students from different backgrounds, cultures, traditions, and customs while living in the house. All residents are given opportunities to engage with one another through the three different committees: Community Service, Academic Success, and Social Engagement. The committees are purposefully created to foster and enhance intercultural interaction and create a global learning environment for the residents through weekly meetings and programs. Based upon mid-semester program evaluations, the residents indicated that Global Gateway has added to their knowledge about different cultures, enhanced their sense of belonging, and positively impacted their appreciation and awareness towards global communities.

There will be three openings for the program in Spring 2016. Please encourage female students to apply. For application details, general information, and to learn more about the Global Gateway please visit: http://oip.uncc.edu/resources/opportunities-and-services-students/global-gateways-program
New Team Members Join OIP

Jess Taylor is an alumna of UNC Charlotte where she studied International Business and Spanish. As an undergraduate, she studied abroad in Barcelona, Spain at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona through an affiliate provider called International Studies Abroad (ISA). After her return from her study abroad program, Taylor interned for ISA and worked closely with the Office of Education Abroad. Upon graduation, she was hired as a full-time temporary Education Abroad Advisor in 2014 and became a permanent staff member in May 2015.

Dr. Rachawan Wongtrirat joined the OIP team as the Assistant Director for International Education Initiatives in September 2015. Previously, she served as the Assistant Director for International Initiatives at Old Dominion University. Originally from Thailand, Wongtrirat received her M.Ed. in Educational Psychology at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. She then completed her PhD in Higher Education Administration with an emphasis in International Higher Education Leadership at ODU. OIP is thrilled to have her join our team!

Dr. Roslyn Lewis most recently served as the Director of Marketing and Communications at South Piedmont Community College. Lewis joined the OIP team as Communications Coordinator in October 2015. She has a doctorate in Higher Education Leadership and M.F.A. in Graphic Design from the Savannah College of the Art and Design. Lewis has previously served as Assistant Professor at the South University School of Design and faculty with the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. OIP is delighted to have Lewis join our team!

Denise Medeiros Selected To Represent Region 7 As A NAFSA Academy Coach

Assistant Director of the International Student and Scholar Office, Denise Medeiros, has been selected as an Academy Coach for NAFSA: Association of International Educators representing Region 7. Medeiros joins sixteen other professionals from across the country who serve as mentors for newer professionals in the field of international education. The NAFSA Academy is an intensive, year-long program which serves roughly 70 new professionals each year. Medeiros has twenty years’ experience in the field of international education, specializing in international student advising, program development, and cross-cultural communication.

Summer Film Screening: Jamaica For Sale

On Wednesday, July 8th, the Office of International Programs (OIP) partnered with The Charlotte International House to host a screening of the documentary Jamaica for Sale at UNC Charlotte’s Center City Building.

Jamaica for Sale examines issues that the island nation faces as it is being transformed by massive hotel and luxury condominium development. Nearly 70 attendees from UNC Charlotte and the greater Charlotte community gathered to watch this powerful documentary and engage in a lively discussion about the environmental, economic, social, and cultural impacts of unsustainable tourism development. Participants enjoyed authentic Jamaican cuisine provided by Mama’s Caribbean Grill & Bar. Faculty and students are encouraged to go to http://www.ihclt.org/ for more information about International House and the many globally-focused events the Charlotte International House host for the Charlotte community.

Farewell: Allie

It is a bittersweet moment to say “farewell” to a matriarch in the OIP community. After 34 years of service, Ms. Allie Wall is retiring from the English Language Training Institute.

Wall departs with numerous accomplishments and contributions to UNC Charlotte. During her tenure with ELTI, Wall supported transitional growth, curriculum development and review, administrative duties, mentorship and advising of new professionals, and a never ending passion for international education.

While Wall is recognized for her writing and books addressing language learning, a lesser known fact is that her first book that she wrote while obtaining her Master’s at Georgetown University was Hog Heaven: A Guide to South Carolina Barbeque! OIP looks forward to hearing about Wall’s retirement adventures as she plans to continue traveling the globe and finding the “off the beaten path” parts.
Administration international@uncc.edu
Joël Gallegos, Assistant Provost for International Programs
Christina Sanchez, Associate Director of International Programs
Rachawan Wongtrirat, Assistant Director for International Education Initiatives
Mary Zink, Executive Assistant
Sandra Anderson, Business Manager
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Joanne Zhang, Business Services Coordinator
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