IPC and UNCG Celebrate International Education Week 2015

IPC celebrated the 16th annual International Education Week (IEW) from November 16-20, 2015. A joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the Department of Education, the week-long event was created to promote and celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. The annual initiative, first held in 2000, is now celebrated in over 100 countries. The theme of IEW 2015 was International Education: Access for All.

IEW 2015 at UNCG included a variety of events for faculty, staff and student participants: a Human Resources workshop on intercultural sensitivity; a study abroad expo; an IPC/Graduate School seminar on international engagement abroad; an IPC/Bryan School of Business and Economics study abroad alumni panel discussion; and a special Friday Fest presentation.

Study Abroad Peer Advisor Madison Hemrick led the IPC/Bryan School of Business and Economics study abroad alumni panel on November 18, which included an overview of study abroad opportunities specific to the International Business major and presentations by School of Business alumni, who shared their personal study abroad experiences.

As an International Business major, studying abroad is a degree requirement for Madison. Although the sophomore has yet to travel outside of the country, she explains that promoting study abroad as a peer advisor is an easy sell. “We all know that the business world is becoming more globalized. We are at the point now where it is almost a necessity to have international experience when you graduate. As a business major, having this experience on your resume definitely gives you a big leg up professionally.” Madison plans to study abroad in Germany during the Fall 2016 semester.

The week’s festivities also included an International Photo Contest, sponsored by IPC. Three photographs in each of five categories – Landscapes/Natural Beauty, Cityscapes/Architecture, People and Culture, Humorous and Outrageous and The United States as Seen by Exchange Students – were chosen by IPC staff as finalists.

Of his winning photo, “Shaolin Warriors,” senior Jordan Griffin (Media Studies) said, “I felt like it was my duty to represent China in the competition and spark student interest in the country. Fewer students choose to study abroad in Asia, and I’m hoping this will help encourage them to consider it. At the very least, I hope it will open up conversations and give me a chance to talk about my experience.”

The photos were on display in the EUC for student voting throughout IEW 2015. The contest offered an opportunity for UNCG students who have studied abroad, as well as international students studying at UNCG, to share their experiences visually with the campus community.
On Friday, November 20, IPC celebrated the end of IEW 2015 with a closing ceremony featuring a special Friday Cultural Fest presentation on the Philippines from Rodell Barrientos (PhD student, Medicinal Biochemistry) and an announcement of the study abroad photo contest winners. IPC would like to thank everyone who participated in this year’s contest.

In September, 2015, Dr. Derek Krueger (Joe Rosenthal Excellence Professor, Department of Religious Studies) traveled to the Greek island of Patmos to examine Byzantine manuscripts housed in the historic Monastery of St. John the Evangelist. This research was supported by a Faculty First Award and a supplement from the Kohler Fund.

During his 10-day visit (September 27-October 7), Dr. Krueger studied an eleventh-century hymnal containing the works of the sixth-century liturgical poet, Romanos the Melodist, regarded as one of Byzantium’s greatest writers. The two-volume manuscript is written in Medieval Greek on parchment. Many of Romanos’ hymns are preserved only in this manuscript.

Weren’t able to attend these events but still want to know more about study abroad and exchange? Contact SAE Director Denise Bellamy at dbellam@uncg.edu or visit the SAE website at http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/sae/study_abroad_exchanges.html.
Arentzen (Theology Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Oslo, Norway), seek to understand how the volumes continue to be transmitted five centuries later. In this way, they consider the manuscripts more “as a performance script for a medieval cantor.”

Lessons gleaned from the manuscript support Dr. Krueger’s long-term exploration of the ways in which Medieval Christian Orthodox liturgy expressed and encouraged emotional responses to biblical stories. These hymns reframe significant figures and events in the Christian Orthodox tradition in a way that shifts the focus onto internal realities.

Dr. Krueger explains, “Romanos’ hymns restaged biblical encounters to plumb the psychological depths of each character. In one hymn, for example, he constructed an elaborate dialogue between Jesus and Mary on the way to the crucifixion that explored how Mary might have felt and how Jesus might have consoled her.”

Dr. Krueger and Dr. Arentzen plan to present their preliminary impressions of the manuscripts at the International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Belgrade, Serbia in August of 2016.

Visiting Scholar Explores Philosophy of War at UNCG

If there’s one word that describes Yuriy Loboda (Fulbright Scholar, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies), it would be passionate. Originally from Ukraine, Yuriy has always been fascinated by the practical applications of his chosen field of study—philosophy—to real world challenges.

Visiting from the National Academy of Public Administration in Kiev, Ukraine, he is currently doing research in his chosen field of study: the philosophy of war. Yuriy is focusing on “correlations between how people think and how they wage war” in preparation for a book he is in the process of writing.

His academic past and his interest in the recent revolution in his home country of Ukraine has shaped his interests. After serving as a lecturer for 8 years, he began his research into the philosophy of war in 2006. Yuriy differs from the common conception of a philosopher, in that he is most interested in the practical side of philosophy.

In the early stages of his project, he met with members of the Ukrainian military, but he didn’t expect his research to become so relevant so quickly. The Ukrainian Revolution, also called the Revolution of Dignity, broke out in February 2014 following a series of protests that turned violent. Four of his students died in the demonstrations.

Yuriy has focused on using Western approaches to scholarship and war studies to Ukraine. “My academic interest is now civic duty,” he said, elaborating on how the revolution affected his studies. He is heartened by the strength of how Ukrainians were “building up independent civil society” that emerged in the months following.

He is excited to continue studies for his monograph on the philosophy of war at UNCG. Yuriy will also teach a graduate course (PCS 627) in Spring 2016 on Understanding Armed Conflict, which will offer students “the tools for understanding the core concepts of war studies as a primary science which deals with armed conflict.”

When asked what attracted him to the university, he talked about the access to information that the institution offers. “I always feel like a student. Every philosopher is a student. All we can do is learn.”

The International Travel Fund (ITF) supports UNCG faculty members to present their work at international conferences outside North America. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and processed typically within two weeks of receipt. Details about applying can be found at the following website: http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/travelfunds.html.
UNCG Partnerships Support Entrepreneurial Dreams of Refugees in the Triad

When refugees arrive in the United States, they bring their business skills and entrepreneurial spirit with them. They often face many obstacles in establishing themselves in their new homes, but the UNCG Center for New North Carolinians (CNNC) offers support that makes starting a business a little bit easier.

CNNC received continuing funding from the DHHA Office of Refugee Resettlement for the Micro-Enterprise for Refugees in the Triad (MERIT) project. The project – which provides recently arrived refugees with small business loans, as well as training and support – was designed around a threefold objective: assisting refugees in becoming self-sufficient, developing capital resources and developing credit history.

The three-year grant for the project was the result of a collaborative effort between Dr. Raleigh Bailey (Founder, CNNC), Dr. Maha Elobeid (Director of Programs, CNNC), Dr. Holly Sienkiewicz (Director of Research, CNNC), Lizzie Biddle (Community Centers Program Coordinator, CNNC), Janet Johnson (Business Officer, CNNC) and Million Mekonnen (Executive Director, African Services Coalition).

According to Dr. Elobeid, the project grew out of recognition of clients’ desire for entrepreneurial opportunities and an understanding of the challenges that come with them. “Many refugees kept coming to us and asking about starting their own businesses, but it’s difficult for them to get started here. Not that these people don’t have what it takes — they do — many refugees who come [to Greensboro] had a business before. However, they need technical assistance and help with acquiring capital, as well as someone to show them how things are done in this country.”

After the grant for the project was approved, the CNNC began working together with local refugee resettlement agencies to identify and recruit potential recipients. The main eligibility criteria are refugee status and recent arrival to the United States (preferably in the last five years). Previous business experience and feasibility of the business plan are also taken into consideration.

Initially, outreach was an important component of recruitment. After the first year, loan recipients began referring others and the program grew organically from there. Now the success of the project speaks for itself, and recruitment is no longer an issue.

- The client schedules a conversation about their business idea with a representative from the CNNC. The CNNC staff member assesses the client’s level of commitment and goes through a risk analysis with the client. When both parties feel confident in moving forward, they fill out a formal application together.
- The client enrolls in a formal training, during which they are able to work toward outlining a written business plan. CNNC provides an interpreter in the client’s native language and volunteers from their cultural community -- who are business owners themselves -- help guide the client through the process, contributing to a “revolving” design through which those who successfully complete the program can later mentor others.
- The client attends entrepreneurship and tax training from the North Carolina Entrepreneurship Center (NCEC) – also a part of UNCG – and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- The client works with the African Services Coalition, a local, non-profit refugee service provider that has been contracted by the CNNC to distribute and manage the loans.
- The client must start repaying the loan – plus interest – three months after receiving the money, and make payments for a term of three years. The payments are reported to the national credit bureaus, allowing the client to build credit, which will open access to future funds from banks and institutions.

As Dr. Elobeid explained, “The loans we give are micro-loans, so we don’t expect people to get rich overnight. As they build their credit, we expect them to access additional loans from financial institutions. This is a time for them to get started and learn about U.S. business practices in a supportive environment.”

Support does not end when the loans are received. As those in the business world can attest, marketing drives business. However, costly marketing campaigns are out of reach for most small start-up businesses. This is where UNCG’s students come in, providing clients with free marketing materials, as well as graphic and web design.

“We are tapping into UNCG’s most valuable resource – its students. Through this partnership, clients receive needed services that they would not otherwise be able to afford and students gain practical, professional experience. It has been a very successful model for us.”

A total of 23 loans were given in the first year of the program and 41 were given in the second year, with an additional 41
proposed for the third year. The program, officially funded for three years, will run for four years, as loan money that clients pay back will be reinvested into new businesses.

Dr. Elobeid, an immigrant herself, understands the far-reaching implications of this program. As she explains, refugees and immigrants often end up in low paying jobs when they arrive in the U.S. Research shows that if the poverty cycle is not broken by the second generation, it will perpetuate. For older adults with families and financial responsibilities, entrepreneurship is often the most feasible way out of poverty.

“Providing people with this opportunity will set a tone for them for life, and for the next generations as well.”

---

**Student Highlights**

**Jeffrey Wells: Connecting with Japanese culture through Kyudo and the host family experience**

For as long as he can remember, senior Jeffrey Wells has been fascinated by Japanese language and culture. When he was presented with the opportunity to study abroad at Seinan Gakuin University (SGU) in Fukuoka, Japan, for the 2014-15 academic year, he jumped at the chance.

Jeffrey cites SGU’s homestay program as one of his main reasons for choosing to study at the university. When he arrived at Fukuoka Airport and found his host family eagerly waiting to greet him, Jeffrey knew that he had made the right decision.

“No matter how much passion you have for learning about a country, going there for the first time and getting acclimated to the culture can be rough. Being with my host family really eased me into my study abroad experience. On my first night in their house my host mother looked at me and said, ‘Jeffrey, from today you are now a part of our family.’ From that moment on, all anxieties I had before arriving in Japan were erased.”

Beyond helping to ease initial nerves, Jeffrey’s host family became his unofficial cultural guides during his time in Fukuoka. He quickly mastered Japanese table etiquette and household rules, thanks to his host brothers. Jeffrey also had the opportunity to visit many sacred shrines, local sporting events and authentic restaurants with his host family – opportunities he would have missed had he chosen to live in a dorm.

Another defining experience of Jeffrey’s time in Fukuoka was participating in SGU’s Kyudo Club. *Kyudo* is the traditional Japanese martial art of archery. The sport is considered to be dangerous and requires a lot of dedication and training. When he first joined the club, Jeffrey spent three months training before he was given a *yumi* (bow) and *ya* (arrow) to begin target practice. After spending another two months shooting at targets, he was deemed ready to take the *shinsa* – the Kyudo skills test. Once he passed the *shinsa*, Jeffrey was finally able to join the practice squad for the official matches.

Reaching this point in his Kyudo practice – arguably a huge achievement in itself – was just the starting point for Jeffrey. As a member of the school’s practice squad, Jeffrey qualified to represent SGU’s Kyudo Club in an official match. This was an incredibly rare accomplishment for a non-native competitor, underscored by the dozens of cameras flashing as Jeffrey drew his *yumi* and prepared to shoot. “Although SGU lost the match, the experience I had there is something I will carry with me for
the rest of my life,” said Jeffrey.

Jeffrey hopes that other UNCG students will take advantage of all the opportunities a study abroad experience has to offer. “My advice to students planning to study abroad would be to live with a host family and to join a club in something that you are passionate about or have always wanted to try. Through my host family experience and joining the Kyudo Club, I pushed my boundaries and made friends that will last a lifetime.”

To learn more about Study Abroad and Exchange partnership opportunities, contact Denise Bellamy (Director, Study Abroad and Exchange) at 336-334-5404.

UNCG Chancellor Hosts Holiday Dinner for International Students

On November 29, 2015 Franklin D. Gilliam Jr. (Chancellor, UNCG) and his wife Jacquelean Gilliam, along with his father, Franklin D. Gilliam Sr., hosted 38 international students, hailing from 24 different countries, at his home for the Chancellor’s Holiday Dinner. Four UNCG alumnae, Anne Cuddy ’64, Sarah Shoffner ’62, Abo Poston ’64 and Barbara Lambert ’65, as well as several IPC staff members, were also in attendance.

Chancellor Gilliam warmly welcomed students to his home, then asked them to go around the table and introduce themselves. Students shared where they were from, their major or course of study and what attracted them to UNCG.

As Thanksgiving traditions were unfamiliar to many of the students, Chancellor Gilliam shared a brief history of the cultural relevance of the holiday, including an explanation of the many traditional Southern dishes that filled the table.

“The chancellor’s dinner made us feel so warm when we left our hometown in these special holidays, just like a big family,” said Yaning Li, a graduate student from China pursuing her MBA at UNCG. “For an international student, it was a wonderful experience to have a classical dinner.” She particularly enjoyed meeting new friends, learning about U.S. cultural traditions and the unique history of UNCG. Qasim Al Maskari, originally from Oman, was “glad to discuss with [the chancellor] many life aspects as well as our education process at UNCG from a diversity perspective.”

The four alumnae— all of whom graduated between 1964 and 1967, prior to when the traditionally women’s-only university became co-ed— were asked to make and present a dessert that was of particular cultural significance to them. The dishes they chose were persimmon pudding, date pudding, yule log cake and pecan pie.

Both Chancellor Gilliam and his wife Jacquelean made a point of speaking with each student individually and taking a photo with each throughout the evening. The dinner marked the first event Chancellor Gilliam hosted at his home since he assumed the position earlier in the year.

Students introducing themselves to their fellow diners at the Chancellor's home
Global Engagement

Students Explore Global Garment Industry, Greensboro History at Global Engagement Conference

It isn’t often that students are able to learn history while sitting in the very place that it was made.

But for the 74 UNCG students who attended the Keker First Year Common Read (KFYCR) Capstone Conference on November 13-14, 2015, they had the unique opportunity to learn about Greensboro’s storied apparel history at Revolution Mill, a former textile mill-turned-event center. The venue was generously donated by Self-Help, a nonprofit community-development organization.

Hosted by the Global Engagement Office in partnership with Lloyd International Honors College, the two-day conference explored themes related to the KFYCR book, Where Am I Wearing? A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People that Make Our Clothes by Kelsey Timmerman. All first-year students received a copy at summer SOAR orientation. Many students taking first-year experience courses also used the text in their classes.

The book raised challenging questions related to the ethics of the global apparel industry and the consumer’s responsibility within the supply chain. The conference served as a culminating event to a semester’s-worth of KFYCR programming, including a visit from the author on October 8.

On day one, students explored Greensboro’s own textile past, beginning with a presentation on Doing Public History from members of the UNCG Department of Public History. Students tried their hands at curating an exhibit using photos from the old Cone Mill Villages after hearing stories of the people who lived there.

Eric Henry (President, TS Designs) spoke on the effects of NAFTA on the garment industry in the United States and how his company is working to make t-shirts that are completely locally-sourced within 600 miles of Burlington, NC, while maintaining a transparent supply chain and being eco-friendly. Students then had a chance to discuss what they had learned in a World Café roundtable discussion led by Frannie Varker (Director, Team QUEST Program).

Participants enjoyed a special treat at dinner: An Evening with the Cone Family, Cone Mills and the Evolving Global Apparel Industry. Keynote speakers included: Tom Cone (Principal Attorney, Ott, Cone and Redpath, P.A.), David Bulluck (COO, Kaltex Apparel) and Ralph Tharpe (Managing Member, Indigo Mill Designs LLC). The Cone Mills, founded by Moses and Cesar Cone, were instrumental in establishing Greensboro as a textile powerhouse at the turn of the 20th century. In total, ten members of the Cone Family were present.

On day two, students participated in one of four Global
On day two, students had the opportunity to attend a resource fair that showcased global opportunities across campus with our partners, such as the Office of Leadership and Service-Learning.

Garment Experiences: a tour of TS Designs “dirt to shirt” t-shirt factory, Greensboro Historical Museum tour with a docent whose family worked in the mills for three generations, artistic activity at Elsewhere Living Museum or a driving tour of former Cone Mill Villages led by Amanda Holland (Graduate Student, Department of Museum Studies).

Thanks to Faculty Programming Chair Dr. Sarah Krive (Assistant Dean, Lloyd International Honors College) and the staff of the Global Engagement Office for a successful event.

For more information about the Global Engagement Office, including events and faculty funding opportunities, visit http://globalqep.uncg.edu.

INTERLINK/New Mind

INTERLINK: Celebrates Fall II Graduation

On December 10, 2015, 17 English-language students graduated from the INTERLINK Program at UNCG. The students celebrated with family and friends at the INTERLINK Fall II 2015 Graduation Ceremony, in the Elliott University Center Auditorium on campus. The ceremony was followed by a celebratory potluck.

In addition to graduating students, INTERLINK recognized the 26 students out of the 125 in the program with perfect attendance, gave special recognition for students who completed module hours above the minimum required, recognized Honor Roll students achieving an A or A- during Fall Session II and gave awards to the hardest working student in each class.

To begin the graduation portion of the ceremony, INTERLINK Director Patrick Lilja congratulated the students on their achievement, acknowledging that “INTERLINK is a really tough program... [and] to be up on the stage tonight took an awful amount of work.”

Graduating students were introduced by a teacher, friend or advisor of their choice, all of whom commented repeatedly on the students’ hard work, kindness and leadership skills. The students also had a chance to share a few words on their INTERLINK experience at UNCG, including Outstanding Student Award - winner Mansour Alotaibi, who said the program “expanded my thinking.”

Mohammed Alhawas echoed his classmate’s sentiments, remembering, “When I came to the U.S., I couldn’t say a word of English. Then I came to INTERLINK and everything changed.”

But it wasn’t only the students’ English language skills that were transformed. Kechen Zhang (Katrina) shared what the INTERLINK program taught her: “the most important thing is to discover myself.”

INTERLINK Director Patrick Lilja with graduate and Outstanding Student Award recipient Mansour Alotaibi

For more information about the Global Engagement Office, including events and faculty funding opportunities, visit http://globalqep.uncg.edu.
Congratulations to the Graduating Class of INTERLINK Fall II:

- Abdullah Almasar
- Chonghao Zhang (Felix)
- Guangyu Zhang (Paul)
- Jamal El Haj
- Kechen Zhang (Katrina)
- Mansour Alotaibi
- Meshari Altoaimi
- Min Yang (Melanie)
- Mohammed Alhawas
- Nasry Hermida David
- Reem Al Raiisi
- Sangi Zuniga Varela
- Talal Eldhwayan
- Yen Nguyen
- Yenhong Chen (Charles)
- Zhenqi Cai (Kai)
- Zhenyu Zhou (Joe)

New Mind October Events Ranged From Spectre to Spooky

During the week of October 10, New Mind Education welcomed 19 new students to UNCG. At the end of orientation week, all students were invited to participate in the 007 Casino Royale event held annually by New Mind Education.

The event was held on campus and featured themes from James Bond’s 007 Casino Royale. Refreshments at this event included a chocolate fountain, finger sandwiches, savory treats, and poker chip sugar cookies decorated by University Performance Program (UPP) students.

Over 50 UPP and UNCG students channeled their inner James Bond as they played poker and a variety of casino games for “cash.” At the end of the night, the student with the most “money” was Zhu “Ralph” Ruifeng, with an astonishing $35,000! He received a prize package which included two movie tickets to see the new James Bond movie Spectre. Our second place winner was Ms. Sonali Kathuria, a UNCG student.

New Mind students exploring the historic Biltmore Estate

Also in October, New Mind students traveled to Asheville, North Carolina to have the ultimate fall experience. Students had the opportunity to participate in a bonfire, explore Asheville’s downtown culture, hike on the area’s walking trails, explore the Biltmore house and trick or treat in a quaint neighborhood. Students witnessed extravagant Halloween displays during their stay and returned from the trip with a wealth of cultural knowledge.

IPC Professionals Attend NAFSA Region VII Conference in Savannah

In the ever-evolving field of study abroad and international student exchange, professional development is an important part of keeping on the cutting edge of advances in the field.

It was in this spirit that several members of the IPC staff and graduate assistants attended the NAFSA Region VII conference in Savannah, Georgia from October 25-28, 2015. NAFSA is the...
leading professional association dedicated to international education, supporting over 10,000 members working in international education and exchange.

"The NAFSA Region VII conference in Savannah, GA was an excellent professional development opportunity for those in the field (or new to the field) of International Education," explained Tom Martinek (Assistant Director, Study Abroad and Exchange), who serves as the North Carolina State Representative to the NAFSA Region VII board and co-presented a session titled: Professionalizing the Re-Entry Session: Large and Small Scale Strategies to Engage Students Post-Study Abroad.

“In addition to the great sessions that provide real take-home solutions, it was also an opportunity to network with other professionals in our field that come from a wide range of experiences,” he added.

Marie Henry (Assistant Director, Study Abroad and Exchange) also attended the conference. “The NAFSA Regional conference was incredibly useful for a relative newcomer to the field of international education. I was able to make connections with colleagues in similar roles and learn more about the scope of professional opportunities in my region.” Her favorite session was entitled The Expanding Roles of the Education Abroad Advisor, which she said allowed her “to gain vital experience with purposeful student advising.”

Participants included: Tom Martinek (Assistant Director, Study Abroad and Exchange), Marie Henry (Assistant Director, Study Abroad and Exchange), Logan Stanfield (Assistant Director, Study Abroad and Exchange), Greta Smith (International Services Coordinator), Lori Lester (IPC Graduate Assistant, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies), Dora Rosser (IPC Intern, Department of Student Personnel Administration and Higher Education), Evan Owens (IPC Intern, Department of Counseling and Educational Development) and Arianna di Puerto (IPC Volunteer). Enoch Chow (Program Director, New Mind Education), Dr. Ye (Jane) He (Associate Professor, School of Education) and former INTERLINK Director Dr. Brad Teague (Assistant Dean and Director of English for International Students, Duke University) co-presented a session titled Appreciative Education: Leverage International Students’ Strengths for Success.

In the end, as Tom so aptly stated, the NAFSA Region VII conference provided participants with “the opportunity to learn about areas of the field that people may not be as familiar with to make [him or her] a well-rounded international educator.”

IPC Staff: Welcomes and Farewells

Welcome to New Staff Members!

Blair Brown joins UNCG as the Director of International Recruitment and Retention from Virginia Commonwealth University, where he was the Director of Graduate and International Admissions. In this role, he was responsible for domestic graduate and international admissions processing and recruitment. Prior to this, he was the Director of International Admissions at VCU. In addition to international recruitment and admissions processing, he also worked closely with the immigration and academic advising offices. Blair holds a B.A. in Western European Politics from James Madison University and an M.Ed. in Higher Education Policy from the University of Virginia.

Delisha (Dee) Stafford joins IPC as the Incoming Exchange Coordinator. She is a university alumna who graduated with her BA in Communication Studies from UNCG in 2009 and completed her Master’s in Higher Education in May 2015 at NCAT while working there as a Study Abroad Coordinator. She also co-founded the Stateside student organization established for any student who has studied abroad on a UNCG program. After studying abroad in Lyon, France in 2008, she realized she “wanted everyone to experience the amazing feeling of being in another culture and learning about themselves.” Upon returning from the program, Dee became heavily involved with IPC until her graduation. Of her new position, she says, “I’m excited about being at my alma mater and helping students realize the potential impact a study abroad experience can have on their lives.”

Lei Jin joins IPC as the graduate assistant for International Student and Scholar Services. Lei is a first year graduate student in the MBA program. As a Master’s student in Business Administration, he is passionate and enthusiastic about communicating and working with a diverse multicultural population and thrives in a challenging environment that takes advantage of these characteristics.

In the end, as Tom so aptly stated, the NAFSA Region VII conference provided participants with “the opportunity to learn about areas of the field that people may not be as familiar with to make [him or her] a well-rounded international educator.”
Congratulations to Staff on New Roles

**Greta Smith** has accepted a new role within IPC as the International Services Coordinator. Greta began volunteering at IPC in September 2014, and was quickly hired as temporary clerical support, serving in many different capacities. She was hired into her current position in December 2015. Greta is a UNCG alumna, and received her Bachelor’s in International and Global Studies with a concentration in Russia and Eastern Europe from the university. During her time as a student, she studied abroad in Poland. Her favorite part of her role at IPC is “working with people of different cultural backgrounds.”

**Farewell to IPC Staff**

After four years of serving as the IPC’s Program Coordinator, **Nor Othman** has taken on a new role in the School of Education’s Department of Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations. During her time with the IPC, Nor was instrumental in coordinating special projects, including a yearly visit from a delegation of faculty and administrators from Guandong Ocean University in China and the summer German Fulbright Program. In addition, she was heavily involved with event planning for UNCG’s annual International Festival and International Education Week. Nor has been an indispensable member of the IPC family these past four years, and she will surely be missed!

**Kaitlin Ritchie** will be leaving her position as Assistant Director, Study Abroad and Exchanges, to take on a new role at Western North Carolina University. She began working with IPC as a graduate student pursuing her Master of Science Degree in Community Counseling and Education at UNCG. Throughout her time with IPC, she has served as the advisor for the International Students Association in addition to coordinating incoming exchange student services. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

IPC also bids a fond farewell to **Nour (Iman) Bannout**, who has served as the Front Desk Coordinator, then as the Administrative Support Assistant in International Admissions, since September 2015. She is a UNCG alumna with her Bachelor’s in International and Global Studies, and completed her C.E.L.T.A. English language teaching certification in the UK in the Summer of 2015. Iman was heavily involved with IPC throughout her time as a student, both volunteering and as a staff member. We wish her good luck in her new position as Admissions Counseling Processor with UNCG Admissions.

INTERLINK bids farewell to **Sonaali Kathuria** as she leaves UNCG to continue her studies at North Carolina State University. She worked with INTERLINK as a Student Assistant, and was involved in coordinating the Thursday Talk and Conversation Partner programs. We wish her best of luck in her studies.

**Best Wishes to our Graduates!**

**Marian (Tammey) Burroughs** graduated this December 2015 with a Political Science-Pre Law bachelor’s degree, accompanied by two minors in Women and Gender Studies and Economics. Tammey has worked at the International Programs Center (IPC) for a year and a half as a Front Desk Coordinator. Her interest in working at the IPC developed after she returned from studying abroad at the Chinese University of Hong Kong during her sophomore year, where she studied Mandarin Chinese. Meeting an array of individuals from around the world drove her to become more involved in the international community in Greensboro. Tammey joined an Indian “Jalwa” dance group at UNCG, which incorporates contemporary, Bollywood, Classical, Bhangra (Punjabi region folk dance), Fusion (Bollywood and hip-hop), and Garba Raas styles, performing at various international events, talent shows and festivals. Following graduation Tammey will continue to work at the IPC as the Front Desk Coordinator while studying for the LSAT and applying to law schools to begin in Fall 2016. Her dream career is to be an international lawyer, “I love everything international, I love to learn about other cultures and be involved which is why I work here (IPC).”
Hao (Caven) Wu, an international student from Guiyang, China received his Master’s degree in Library and Information Studies in December 2015. Beginning February 2014, he worked as a graduate assistant in International Students and Scholars Services. Caven’s fluency in Chinese and organizational experience prepared him to work in the high-volume, student-oriented environment. In his time at IPC, he developed friendships with a large portion of the Chinese population at UNCG. Caven plans to continue working in Greensboro for a few more years, after which he will move back to China where he will strive to expand library education access in his hometown.

University News

“Beyond the Book: Bringing Learning Home” Campus Weekly http://newsandfeatures.uncg.edu/students-global-engagement-with-textile-industry/


“#GlobalUNCG: Rudolph Bedeley Student Profile Youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBUltZcttmg

“#GlobalUNCG: Liwen Huang Student Profile Youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfn2rNSJl20


State & National News


“Piedmont Triad residents concerned about ‘backlash’ against immigrants” Greensboro News and Record http://www.greensboro.com/news/piedmont-triad-residents-concerned-about-backlash-against-immigrants/article_3152a3e6-2d99-5f27-9be1-4ae0a34eb59.html


Upcoming Events

January

Fri, January 1 Closed New Year’s Day (University & Offices Closed)

Tue, January 5 ISSS Orientation Volunteers Meeting (Foust 206, 11:00am-1:00pm)

Mon, January 4 INTERLINK Spring 2016 Term I begins

Mon-Fri, January 4-8 New International Students and INTERLINK Orientation Spring 2016 (All Day)

Mon, January 11 Spring 2016 Classes Begin

Tue, January 12 SAE-IN PALs International Exchange Students Social Spring 2016 (EUC Auditorium, 3:30 - 4:30pm)

Tue, January 12 Chancellor’s International Students Welcome Reception Spring 2016 (EUC Cone Ballroom B, 4:30-5:30pm)

Fri, January 15 Kohler and Global Engagement Course Development Application Deadlines

Fri, January 15 Payment deadline for all incoming exchange students

Mon, January 18 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Classes Dismissed, Offices Closed)

Wed, January 20 SAE Re-Entry Workshop Spring 2016 (Faculty Center/EUC Kirkland, 4:00-6:00pm)

Thurs, January 21 Study Abroad Expo Spring 2016
(EUC Cone Ballroom C, 11:00am-2:00pm)

Thurs, January 21  
GLP Information Session  
Spring 2016 (McIver 255, 5:00-6:00)

Thurs, January 21  
ISSS Committee Meeting  
(Foust 206/216B/Stone 218, 2:00-3:30pm)

Thurs, January 21  
SAE Committee Meeting  
(Foust 206/216B/Stone 218, 3:30-5:00pm)

Mon-Tue, Jan. 25-26  
14th Washington International Education Conference (Washington DC)

Wed, January 27  
ISSS OPT Workshop  
Spring 2016 (EUC Joyner, 3:30-5:00pm)

Thurs, January 28  
ISSS CPT Workshop  
Spring 2016 (EUC Joyner, 3:30-5:00pm)

Fri, January 29  
IPC Discretionary Funds Committee Meeting (Foust 208, 3:30-5:00pm)

February

Mon, February 1  
ISEP UNCG Deadline  
Spring 2016

Wed-Fri, February 3-5  
WISE 2016 Conference  
(Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, All Day)

Wed, February 3  
SAE Faculty-Led Study Abroad Information Session Spring 2016 (EUC Long Leaf Pine, 1:00-2:30pm)

Wed, February 3  
ISSS Tax Workshop for International Students (Foust 206/EUC Joyner, 3:30-5:00pm)

Thurs, February 4  
ISSS Visas Graduation  
After Graduation with Attorney and Career Services (Foust 206/McIver 255, 3:30-5:00pm)

Fri, February 5  
ISSS Visas Graduation  
After Graduation Consultation (Foust 206, 8:00am-5:00pm)

Fri, February 5  
UCIP Meeting (Stone 186)

Fri, February 5  
UNCEP Advisors Board Meeting (Stone 186)

Wed, February 10  
GLP Core Colloquium: “Cross Cultural Understanding (IDI)” (Nell Pynes) (Foust 206/McIver 255, 5:00-7:00pm)

Thurs, February 11  
QEP Global Engagement Implementation Advisory Committee GEIAC Meeting I Spring 2016 (Foust 206, 8:00-9:00am)

Thurs, February 11  
IPC Advisory Committee Meeting I Spring 2016 (EUC Claxton, 12:15-2:00pm)

Mon, February 15  
UNCG Study Abroad Application Deadline (Fall/Full Year Exchanges & Summer ISEP)

Sun-Wed, February 14-17  
AIEA Conference 2016 (Washington, DC)

Thurs-Fri, February 18-26  
Study Abroad Final Interviews (Foust 208 + 200H, All Day)

Wed, February 17  
GLP Core Colloquium: “Leadership within a Global Context” (Dr. Cathy Hamilton) (Faculty Center/McIver 255, 5:00-7:00pm)

Wed, February 24  
GLP Core Colloquium: “Beyond Borders: Becoming a Global Citizen” (Steve Flynn) (Foust 206/McIver 255, 5:00-7:00pm)