



# *International Programs Center*

## *Newsworthy*

*Volume XVI, Number 2, October 2006*

### ***UNCG Classified a Research University with ‘High Research Activity’***

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has classified The University of North Carolina at Greensboro a research university with “high research activity.”

The “high research activity” category includes universities such as Auburn, Clemson, Georgetown, Rutgers, and Wake Forest. The College of William & Mary and Boston College are also in this category. The designation is expected to help UNCG attract even more outstanding faculty and graduate students, and to raise the university’s profile in North Carolina and beyond.

Recognition for the volume and quality of research conducted at UNCG should add momentum to the development of the Greensboro Center for Innovative Design, a joint millennium campus and research park being developed with NC A&T State University.

The new system classifies 4,382 colleges. There are 94 research universities with “very high research activity,” 102 research universities with “high research activity” and 82 doctoral/research universities.

Carnegie’s classification of doctoral-granting universities includes six of North Carolina’s public institutions: UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State are in the “very high research activity” category; UNCG and NC A&T are in the “high research activity” category; and UNC-Charlotte and ECU are in the doctoral/research category.

-Dan Nonte, University Relations, UNCG



*The Beverly Cooper Moore and Irene Mitchell Moore Humanities and Research Administration Building, home to five academic departments*

### ***Confessions of an Exchange Student***



*Christin Bird and friends in Venice, Italy*

I left for Klagenfurt, Austria at the beginning of February in 2006, and to be honest, I was terrified. When I got off the plane in Klagenfurt Airport I didn’t know what to expect. I didn’t know if my university was picking me up, or if I had to catch a taxi, so I waited for about 15 minutes, when a girl came up to me and asked, “Are you Christin?” She was my Entrée, the Austrian equivalent of a PAL at UNCG, a local student volunteering to help new international students. She and her boyfriend drove me to my dorm, and we talked the whole way there entirely in German. I was surprised with how quickly this language had been thrust upon me. I got to my dorm, and my Entrée left me my keys, some information on Klagenfurt, and introduced me to my Italian roommate, Nicole. That night I couldn’t sleep, I didn’t know anyone, and I was in a city I knew practically nothing about. But that fear and angst quickly changed into me having the most profound experience of my life. My roommate quickly turned into being a sister to me and I made a new best friend from Tasmania. All of the international students were a big family. We did everything together and I felt like I belonged. From skiing in the Alps, meeting the Dalai Llama, to traveling to Venice to Carnival, we did it together. I remember one day when I tried to do an excursion to Hallstatt, a small but beautiful village in the Salzburg region; however, I got off at the wrong stop. The rest of the day was terrible trying to make my way there, and all I could think was I just wanted to go home. The funny thing is, when I thought of home, I wasn’t thinking of Greensboro, or North Carolina, or even the United States, I was thinking of Klagenfurt. I spent my last two months there swimming at Lake

## *Confessions of an Exchange Student cont.*

Wörther and having barbeques with my friends, with the occasional trip to the city center to watch the World Cup on the big screen in front of the town hall surrounded by beer tents. Then one day I was forced to say my goodbyes and leave it all behind. Granted it wasn't all paradise, I had issues with my visa, money, and the occasional drama (both in Klagenfurt and back home). What can I say it was just as difficult as it was amazing, but well worth it. When I came home I was a brand new person in all respects. Physically I was 20 pounds lighter, with hair that had doubled in length, and a nice tan. But more importantly I was stronger, confident, a bit cheeky, and for the first time in a while I was happy. I highly doubt anyone's experience abroad would be exactly the same as mine, but I can say this, if you don't know who you are, you will by the time you come back from studying abroad.

-Christin Bird

## *Making it in Denmark—without cash or speaking Danish*



*One of the quaint side streets in Aarhus, Denmark*

“Tak! God pinse!” I said to my Danish colleagues on my way out the door at Aarhus School of Business (ASB). Forty-eight hours prior to that moment I had never been to Scandinavia, nor did I speak a single word of Danish. I was very excited when I found out that I'd be able to visit some of UNCG's partner universities this summer, but I had no idea what adventures Denmark had in store for me.

After arriving in Aarhus after a 12-hour train ride and walking a mile to the hotel (should have packed lightly!), I spent 30 minutes sobbing because I could not for the life of me figure out how to turn the lights on (apparently you have to stick the hotel key card in a slot next to the door). The tears returned when I realized I could not get any cash because I had not told my bank that I'd be going overseas, which resulted in an automatic ATM blockage – and we tell our students to do this at orientation! So, all cried out and no Danish kroner in sight, my five-minute bus ride to ASB turned into a 30-minute walk.

As it often happens, though, that 30-minute walk provided some of the most memorable moments of my time in Aarhus: the hustle and bustle of shopkeepers opening their stores in the morning; the cute mail delivery man on his bicycle; the 16<sup>th</sup> century restored village walk-in museum; and the wrong turn I took that led me to see two little girls with their tiny plastic shovels helping daddy dig a hole in the backyard.

The truth is, there is much more to studying abroad than making good grades in the classroom. The majority of learning takes place outside of the lecture halls in the side streets, in the cathedrals and on the trains. I learned that most Danes are fluent in English and that they feel more Scandinavian than European. Licorice and caramels are their favorite sweet treats. And although Danish trains are rarely on time, the friendly train station staff chartered a bus for those of us who missed the train to Hamburg within five minutes. When have you ever experienced such customer service? My visit in Aarhus ended with a parade called “Fashion through the Ages,” two free rock concerts in the market square and fireworks at midnight. What an incredible adventure!

-Heidi Fischer, Coordinator for International Student Services, Bryan School of Business and Economics



*Heidi in the 16th century restored Danish village, downtown Aarhus*

## **INTERLINK**

INTERLINK students working on projects about capital punishment expect to visit a correctional institution and hear Sister Prejean's discussion, as well as learn from local groups focusing on this issue. The Muslim month of fasting (Ramadan) was kicked off by a Saudi presentation at Friday Fest on 9/22. INTERLINK's first students from Benin are adjusting to life in the U.S. Welcome to new instructors, **Stephen Schrass, George Boesger, Candace Salo, and Ellen Baumgartner!**

## ***New Director of International Admissions!***



*Pam Harrod*

Beginning September 1, 2006 IPC would like to welcome Pam Harrod as the new Director of International Admissions! Pam is a UNCG Alumni and brings with her six years of professional expertise. She has studied French abroad in Nice, France and she also has lived abroad both in Australia and in England. Pam, a wonderful addition to IPC, is devoted to "Improving the International Admissions process by providing the help and personal assistance necessary for students who are applying to study at UNCG." Pam has wasted no time and has already designed a new International Student Application for admissions. Congratulations and Welcome to the IPC team!

## ***Recent Travelers***

The following UNCG faculty members traveled all over the globe in pursuit of international perspectives in their various disciplines during the month of *September*: **Robert Guttentag**, Psychology (United Kingdom); **Sat Gupta**, Mathematical Sciences (Portugal); **Thomas Kwapil**, Psychology (Spain); **Cheryl Lovelady**, Nutrition (Canada); and **Jan Rychtar**, Mathematical Sciences (Portugal).

## ***International Travel Fund***

We are pleased to announce that the following faculty members have been awarded ITF grants in *August*: **Rebecca Adams**, Sociology (Canada); **Julie Brown**, Sociology (Canada); **Robert Guttentag**, Psychology (United Kingdom); **Don Hodges**, Music (Italy); **Bruce Kirchoff**, Biology (Mexico); **Colleen Kriger**, History (Finland); **Jan Rychtar**, Mathematical Sciences (Portugal); and **Stephen Sills**, Sociology (Canada). *September*: **James Carmichael**, Library & Information Studies (Spain); **Christian Moraru**, English (Romania); and **Irna Priore**, Music (Czech Republic).

The ITF brochure and budget form can be found at the IPC website at [www.uncg.edu/ipg/facultystaff/fgoingabroad/travelfunds.html](http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/facultystaff/fgoingabroad/travelfunds.html) and the Kohler Fund brochure, coversheet, and budget form can be found at [www.uncg.edu/ipg/facultystaff/internationalize/fundingopportunities.html](http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/facultystaff/internationalize/fundingopportunities.html)

## ***Recent Visitors***



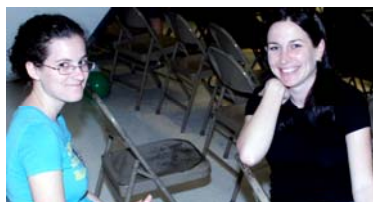
*Penelope Pynes, Hedvig Thomsen, & Tom Martinek Jr.*

On Friday, September 15, UNCG, UNC-EP and IPC welcomed Ms. **Hedvig Thomsen**, from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. While on her site visit she toured the campus and learned more about UNCG's academic opportunities as well as gaining a first hand look at UNCG's dynamic student atmosphere.

On Tuesday, September 19, UNCG welcomed Professor **Krzysztof Nawotka** and Ms. **Urszula Broda**, from the University of Wroclaw, Poland. Their site visit included meetings with IPC staff, **Dennis Leyden** Lloyd's International Honors College, **Kathleen Ahern** of the German, Russian and Japanese Studies, and **Rosemary Wander** of the Office of Research and Public/Private Sector Partnerships.



*Krzysztof Nawotka, Lyn Larrance, Urszula Broda, & Penelope Pynes*



*Louise Kelly, University of Southern Queensland & Kelly Donohue*

On Thursday, September 21, UNCG welcomed Ms. **Kelly Donohue**, from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia. While on her site visit Ms. Donohue met with **Heidi Fischer**, from the Bryan School and **Annette Cline**, from the School of Education.

**Recent Visitors Cont.**



On Tuesday, September 26, UNCG welcomed Professor **Ching-Pu Chen**, from Yuan Ze University (YZU), Taiwan. While on his site visit Professor Chen met with **Bud Miles**, from the Bryan School, to discuss UNCG's Disney program and to meet with other Bryan faculty to discuss possible collaborations between UNCG and YZU.

**ISA Myrtle Beach Trip 2006!**



**Friday Fest:**

29-Sep	Finland/Sweden	27-Oct	Estonia
6-Oct	New Zealand/Australia	3-Nov	India
13-Oct	S. Korea	10-Nov	Turkey
20-Oct	France	17-Nov	Austria
		1-Dec	Mexico



*Saudi Arabia*



*Brazil—Capoeira Demonstration*

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<http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/resources/newsorthy.html>

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