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Native Chinese Instructor to Bid Farewell to WCU after Spring Semester

Thanks to the teaching efforts of Yuhui Quan, the number of students at WCU who learn Chinese has increased in recent years. Since she joined the WCU Modern Foreign Language Department in August 2009, Quan has taught Chinese language and culture courses to approximately 100 WCU undergraduates.

A native of Henfyang, the second largest city of PR China's Hunan Province, Quan accepted an invitation to come to WCU as part of an ongoing relationship between WCU and Guangxi Normal University (established in 1932 and located in Guilin, PR China). Quan received her master's and bachelor's degrees in modern Chinese language and culture from Nanjing University (1991) and Hunan Normal University (1984). She speaks a native Xiang dialect, the conversation language of nearly 40 million people in the Chinese provinces of Hunan, Sichuan, Guangxi and Guangdong. In addition, she has more than 22 years of teaching experience, specifically Chinese as a second language.

Now in her final semester at WCU, Quan wishes to express her gratitude to all her students for being so helpful and understanding. "I have been impressed and pleased to have had so many great students who were hard working and competent,

understanding and adaptable, and still remain very interested in Chinese language and culture," she said.

Quan also speaks highly of her colleagues and friends for being so informative and supportive during her transition to the U.S. and the working environment here at WCU. "The friends that I have made here have been so amazing and have really enriched my experience at Western Carolina," she said. "So trustworthy and kind, they have provided me with not only necessary things, but also a wonderful experience of American friendship."

Quan says she truly admires others for their open-mindedness and understanding in accepting her as someone with different opinions and beliefs from a different culture. "To me, this means true friendship," she said.

While Quan wishes that she could have enjoyed more time visiting the WNC region, she remains hopeful that the Chinese language program will continue to grow and WCU's relationship with Guangxi Normal University will flourish. "It really has been a unique and enjoyable experience for me," she said. Quan plans to return home this coming July to resume her position as associate professor of Chinese at Guangxi Normal University.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Rejoice! There is a glimmer of hope in these bad economic times.

The University of North Carolina Tomorrow initiative charges us to internationalize our campuses, yet in the midst of increased budget cuts, we ask: How are we going to do that?

This year International Programs and Services will be able to distribute \$25,000 from the QEP local tuition fund to assist needs-based students to integrate their academic experience by studying abroad. For the next academic year, we hope to receive

these funds again, plus funds to help faculty give papers at international conferences and to visit international universities in an effort to establish partnerships for exchanging faculty, research and students. These funds will be limited, so departments are encouraged to begin speaking about their ideas with IPS as soon as possible.

Also, prepare your students for the global encounters they will experience in their jobs after college. Encourage them to study at one of our 260-plus partners worldwide. There are wonderful opportunities for substantive learning in various cultures. When they return to your classroom, the level of discourse will be different and more exciting.

Think about recruiting international students, too. As our intensive English program grows, these students will be entering your classroom. They are a wonderful addition and enrichment to our campus culture. But you can also use data, like SAT or GRE score data, to get contact information for e-mailing prospective international students. Begin the conversation! See what happens.

Lois Petrovich-Mwaniki
Director of the Office of International Programs and Services

WCU Faculty and Students Are on the Move

Increasing numbers of our faculty are teaching WCU students through travel courses during the semester or summer: **David Shapiro (CSD)** introduced his students to the latest international developments in speech communication in the Czech Republic during fall semester 2010; **Nyaga Mwaniki (ANTH)** and **Tony Hickey (SOC)** explore theories of anthropology and sociology in Kenya; **Lisa Briggs (CJ)** introduces international studies in law and society in Western Europe and other countries; **Jane Nichols (IDES)** examines interior design in European countries; **Jeanne Dulworth (SOCW)** teaches about cultural differences in London and Scotland; **Ashley Long (ATTR)** teaches about international aspects of sports medicine in the UK; **Masafumi Takeda (MFL)** teaches about the Buddhist culture in Japan; **Yumiko Ono (MFL)** teaches Japanese language and culture in Japan; **Hunt Boulware (HIST)** explores regional history in London; **Joey Long (BUS)** teaches about sport business in London; **Sandra Grunwell (BUS)** explores international

studies in hospitality and tourism in the UK; **Lori Oxford** and **Alberto Centeno-Pulido (MFL)** teach Spanish language and culture in Valencia, Spain; **Sharon Metcalfe** and **Bonnie Garner (NSG)** introduce perspectives in international nursing leadership in Edinburgh, Scotland; **Mimi Fenton (ENGL)** explores the Renaissance with her students during spring semester 2011 and will travel with them to Italy and Greece during May to visit relevant sites from their studies; **Alvin Malesky (PSY)** examines the issue of hate with his psychology students while visiting sites of historical significance related to the Holocaust in Germany and the Netherlands, and by exploring how the international community confronts hate through modern international organizations; and **Will Lehman (MFL)** takes students each summer to the Pädagogische Hochschule in Ludwigsburg, Germany, to teach German and culture courses.

Who is taking advantage of these opportunities? In 2009-10, the following numbers of students studied abroad for at

least one semester or summer: 75 from the College of Arts and Sciences, 17 from the College of Business, 25 from the College of Education and Allied Professions, 31 from the College of Fine and Performing Arts, 19 from the College of Health and Human Sciences, and three from the Kimmel School. Five master students in History, TESOL and physical therapy studied abroad as well. More than half of these students were honors students. In spite of the hard economic times, IPS has seen an increase in student interest for overseas experiences. Scholarships are available for students from the Freeman-Asia Foundation, the German DAAD and the Gilman Scholarships, among others. This year and next, IPS will award close to \$30,000 in study abroad scholarships to students who apply. Financial aid assists with all study abroad activities, so students should apply for financial aid, even if they don't think that they qualify.

Student Surveys Will Help Fine-Tune the International Experience

Two years ago, I took over as international student adviser from my predecessor, Beth Walden. Since then, I have worked hard to ensure the continuity of services provided to international students. For many years now international students have come to WCU every semester from many parts of the world, thus bringing rich, diverse and unique cultures to the WCU community.

This spring semester is unique, as several students from countries typically not a source of students for WCU currently are enrolled here on exchange or for the intensive English program. These countries are Portugal, Italy and Guadeloupe (the French overseas region). The rest of the students came from countries that have traditionally sent students to WCU, including Mexico, Germany, Netherlands, the United Kingdom and China. Overall, more than 32 countries are represented at WCU international student body.

I strive to provide the best advice and guidance to new international students as well as those continuing. My goal is to be more proactive in anticipating the needs of international students, be they academic, social or spiritual, in order to help them be prepared for their university experiences. It is my plan to continue providing better opportunities for all incoming international students by embracing the diversity and uniqueness they can bring to the Cullowhee community.



Some students may have limited English and want to practice; some may encounter culture shock because things are done differently from what they are used to; and others just fit in without any problem. To help meet the many needs of international students, I gladly collaborate with many academic departments by connecting students with their academic advisers, who in turn, help students register for the proper courses in their programs. I also collaborate with non-academic units such as residential living, health services, food services, campus activities and others for services students need outside their classrooms. These collaborations are certainly important and without them I could not expect to perform my job to the best of my ability.

I cannot assume I have been perfect in meeting the needs of all our students, and that's why I have decided to survey students at the beginning and end of every semester. The results of these surveys inform me of students' needs and how I can better serve students. These survey results are a means to improving services to international students and exchanges.

I would like to diversify even more the composition of international students. My future efforts will target regions with less

representation in the United States, such as the Middle East and South Asia as well as South, Central and East Africa, while also strengthening representations in regions with larger numbers of students in the United States. These regions would include China, India, South Korea, the United Kingdom and Canada.

It is my hope that services and assistance I provide to international students at WCU can be tailored to meet the goals of recruiting and retention of students. Such efforts suggest a goal to provide essential services and quality education that will foster more memorable experiences for international students. Universities in the USA and throughout the world often rely on solid relationships they have established with students to tap into an ever-larger population of prospective students. Such universities which possess a steady stream of students over many years thus can create an enjoyable, successful and diverse student body on their campuses. My hope is to develop relationships to increase the international student population at WCU.

Christopher Pedo
*International student adviser with the
Office of International Programs and Services*





Jack Sholder (center) and John Schweikart (to Sholder's right) with faculty and staff representatives from Glasgow Caledonian University.

Jack and John Go across the Pond

From Oct. 31 to Nov. 6, Jack Sholder (director of WCU's motion picture and television production program) and study abroad adviser John Schweikart conducted site visits to four institutions in the United Kingdom: the University of Portsmouth (www.port.ac.uk) in England, the University of Glamorgan in Wales (www.glam.ac.uk), the Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland (www.gcu.ac.uk) and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dance (www.rsamd.ac.uk).

The purpose of these site visits was threefold:

- 1) Evaluate the potential for expanding our existing agreement with the Portsmouth Business School to include other departments and programs at the University of Portsmouth
- 2) Visit the forensic sciences program and the atrium program for the arts at Glamorgan in an effort to strengthen our existing agreement
- 3) Further Dr. Lois Petrovich-Mwaniki's efforts to establish a partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University and to make an initial visit to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dance on behalf of the College of Fine and Performing Arts at WCU

Sholder's specific purpose was to visit institutions in the U.K. with robust film production programs to see which of these programs might fit well with WCU's motion

picture and television production program. The ultimate goal is to set up specific partnerships and exchanges in this area. In addition, Sholder worked on the behalf of Dean Robert Kehrberg to investigate the potential for distance and Web-based learning as well as other potential ties to WCU's other programs in the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Schweikart's role was to facilitate these efforts between institutions and to meet with other departments and programs besides those in the fine and performing arts that also had an interest in collaboration with WCU.

As a result, Sholder determined that both the University of Portsmouth and the Atrium at the University of Glamorgan are a good fit for WCU motion picture and television production students looking for a study abroad exchange program. In addition, both Portsmouth and Glamorgan also provide excellent opportunities for WCU's art and design and commercial and electronic music programs. While Glasgow Caledonian University does not have the same degree of compatibility with WCU's motion picture and television production program, it does have courses of interest for those students interested in screenwriting as well as computer graphics and design. Sholder also identified that the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dance would be an excellent opportunity for our theater and dance

programs if an agreement can be made between our two institutions.

In addition to these areas investigated by Sholder, the University of Portsmouth's American studies program is very interested in offerings here at WCU, particularly Appalachian studies, history and political science. Furthermore, Glamorgan also is interested in exploring our potential for collaboration in the forensic sciences, and we are now currently working with Glamorgan to make WCU's summer forensic anthropology field school available to interested forensic science students at Glamorgan.

Finally, while WCU does not currently have an agreement with Glasgow Caledonian University, GCU is very eager to work with us toward an exchange agreement which could benefit students in the College of Fine and Performing Arts but also our students and faculty in education, the health sciences and engineering.

As a result of this visit, Sholder and Schweikart are now preparing at least three motion picture and television production program students to attend the University of Portsmouth or the University of Glamorgan for fall 2011. In addition, they are continuing a dialogue with Glasgow Caledonian University and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dance in an effort to strengthen and increase WCU's partnerships in the United Kingdom.

WCU Well-Represented at Middelburg Events in the Netherlands

I and two WCU faculty members traveled to the Middelburg Center for Transatlantic Studies in Middelburg, the Netherlands, in October. As the assistant director of International Programs and Services, I represented WCU at the MCTS annual board meeting, and Drs. Debra Burke from the College of Business and Niall Michelsen from the College of Arts and Sciences each presented papers at “The Obama Effect: Transatlantic Perspectives Past and Future” conference co-sponsored by MCTS and hosted by the Roosevelt Study Center, or RSC, in Middelburg. Burke and Michelsen were among more than 55 presenters from nine different countries, from the USA to Russia and from Mexico to Sweden, who presented papers at the conference.

MCTS is based at the Roosevelt Academy, an International Honors College of Utrecht University in the Netherlands. MCTS courses focus on a comparative, multidisciplinary approach to transatlantic relationships and developments. Drs. Chris Cooper and Gibbs Knotts from the Department of Political Science have both taught at MCTS, and two WCU students spent fall semester 2010 there. The Office of the Provost has agreed



to cover transportation costs to and from MCTS for WCU faculty members, and if faculty members are selected to teach during summer session, they also are eligible for a stipend.

I would like to encourage you to consider presenting at future conferences sponsored by MCTS and the RSC. Two are upcoming this year: The RSC will host the “American Responses to the Holocaust: Transatlantic Perspectives” conference from June 15-17; and MCTS will host its sixth conference, “North and South: The United States, European Union, and the Developing World,” from October 20-22 at the Instituto Franklin at the University of Alcalá in Spain. Although the deadline for submission of paper proposals for the June conference already has passed, proposals for the October conference will be accepted through

April 1. Please see the MCTS website at www.transatlanticstudies.org for more information on how to submit a paper proposal.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal to teach an MCTS course, please contact me and I will be happy to assist you in the application process. You may reach me via e-mail at cbryant@wcu.edu or by phone at 227-7739. Or feel free to stop by my office in the IPS office, located in the Camp Building.

Claudia Bryant

Assistant director, International Programs and Services

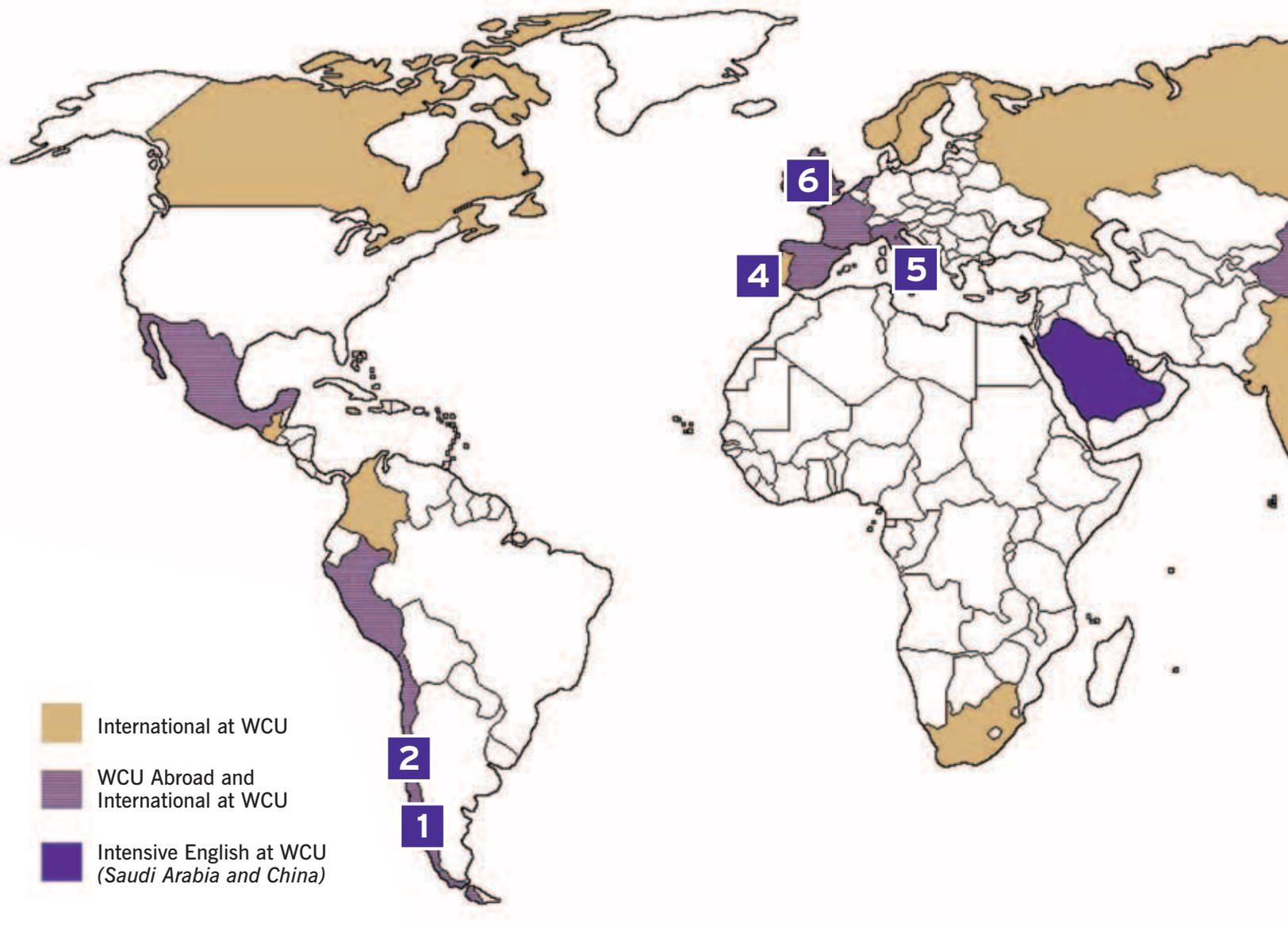
Educators Focus on International Experience as a Way to Strengthen the Work Force

On Nov. 18, members of the College of Education and Allied Professions (Perry Schoon, dean; Dale Brotherton of the Human Services Department; and Janice Holt, executive director of teacher recruitment, advising and career support) and members of the Office of International Programs and Services (Lois Petrovich-Mwaniki, director; John Schweikart, study abroad adviser; and assistant director Claudia Bryant) attended the Forum on Internationalizing Teacher Education at the William and Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, N.C. State University Centennial Campus in Raleigh.

The forum was an inaugural undertaking by the UNC colleges of education and the University Council on International Programs, or UCIP, comprised of the senior international officers of the UNC international offices, to collaborate on internationalizing teacher education. As

chair of UCIP, Dr. Petrovich-Mwaniki worked with Dr. Gerald Ponder, associate dean of Education at N.C. State University, and a 10-person steering committee from seven state universities to plan and organize the forum. The impetus for the forum was a response to a need expressed by N.C. state legislators and business CIOs at the Globalization Seminar hosted in March 2009 by the North Carolina Center for International Understanding. The state legislators and business CIOs acknowledged that the N.C. work force was ill-prepared to assume jobs in the increasingly global economic society in which we live. UCIP members felt that the only way UNC universities could address this situation was through their teacher education programs. Therefore, it was decided to begin collaborating with the UNC colleges of education in a more meaningful way. This forum is the beginning of these state-wide efforts.

Forum participants were welcomed by Dr. Jayne Fleener, dean of the College of Education at N.C. State University, and Dr. Alan Mabe, senior vice president for academic affairs at UNCA. The keynote address, “Globalizing Teacher Education in Our Flat and Changing World,” was presented by Dr. Mary Lynne Calhoun, dean of the College of Education at UNC-Charlotte. Forum presentations were grouped into the topics of student teaching/field experiences abroad, study abroad and other student international experiences, and globalizing the curriculum. Conference participants were provided the opportunity to reflect on new ideas and strategies emerging from the forum during a dialogue process known as a world café. These ideas will be organized and analyzed by the forum steering committee to identify next steps.



Welcome to all new international students and exchange visitors to Western Carolina University, your new home away from home! You have made a good choice to study abroad at WCU.

INTERNATIONAL & EXCHANGE STUDENTS

graduate students	8
undergraduate students	40
intensive English participants	28
Total	76

STUDENT STATUS

on exchange*	20
seeking degrees	26
*one of this number is here on exchange but also seeks a WCU degree.	

Countries represented at WCU	29
WCU students abroad	18
Countries with WCU participants	11



1] DANIEL PRADO
(English as a second language), ISEP exchange from Chile



3] KAITLAN CONGER
(Honors College, elementary education) University of Technology, Sydney



2] DESIREE REAGAN
(Honors College, finance), ECELA Program, Santiago



4] MARCELO MAIA
(communication sciences), ISEP exchange from Portugal



international

FESTIVAL

celebrating 32 years

Wednesday | April 6 | 10 am - 3:30pm | UC Lawn

WCU Welcomes Educators from Japan, South Korea

An instructor from Japan and two visiting professors from South Korea are contributing to the educational experience at WCU this semester. Read more about them below.

EUNSOOK HUH



Dr. Eunsook Huh is a professor at Konyang University in South Korea. Huh is here at WCU as a visiting professor in the College of Business for a comparative study on trade finance between the USA and South Korea. She will analyze and work to understand the implications of the differences in trade finance services between the global commercial banks in those two countries. Her main objective is to learn the lessons from American leading commercial banks, which have applied the advanced international trade and finance services into their operations, and to suggest her findings (the lessons learned) to the chief managers of commercial banks of South Korea. Her office is in Room 238 Forsyth.

SOODUCK CHANG



Dr. Sooduck Chang is an associate professor of business administration at Hannam University in South Korea. Chang teaches courses on organizational behavior, human resource management, strategic management and entrepreneurship. He has published several articles and cases in international and Korean journals. His current research interests are in strategic management, entrepreneurship and organization theory. He is studying and researching at Western Carolina University as a visiting professor in the College of Business, and his office is in 205 Forsyth.

YUMIKO ONO



Ono is a lecturer of Japanese in the WCU Modern Foreign Languages Department. "I hope to inspire students to become lifelong learners and to use Japanese language as a way to appreciate and value the diversity of life across the world," Ono said. The ultimate goal of her teaching is to introduce her students to the world through learning the Japanese language. "I hope this will lead them to be better students as well as responsible citizens of the world," she said.



5] SERENA PASTORI
(pre-medicine), ISEP
exchange from Italy



6] SETH CROCKETT
(Honors College, political
science) University of
Glamorgan, Pontypridd



New Students for IEP as Program Continues to Expand

Thanks to the entire WCU community and Reynolds Hall students in particular for giving such a warm welcome to the “Saudi guys” in the fall semester. Many wonderful friendships and memories have been made by all. This spring semester we welcomed 18 new students from Saudi Arabia and one student from China into the Intensive English Program. The IEP is growing! Here are some thoughts from several of the Saudi students about their experiences in the United States and WCU.

Connie Hanna
Director, Intensive English Program



Towelhead! I had the wrong idea about the USA. Before I came to the USA, everyone said, “Be careful! Everywhere you go, people will say to you, ‘You are a terrorist or towelhead.’” I was afraid of the airport. They told me that they will take your clothes and leave you naked in the airport, but I didn’t believe them. If you want the truth, it was

a normal trip, but a long way, to WCU. In reality, when you see the nice people and the Smoky Mountains – when I see the view – that can take your brain out of reality. Always, everyone says I’m lucky. But now I know why.

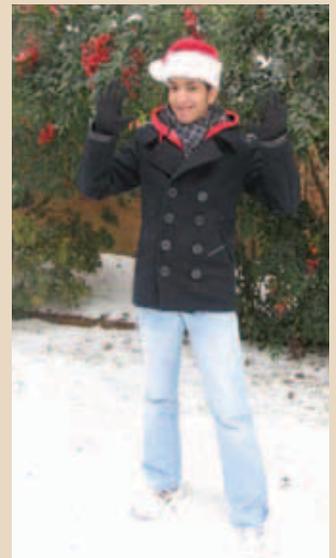
HUSSAIN HASSAN SHAIKH



ALI ALNAKHLI

The U.S. is one of my favorite countries in the world, although it comes after my home country of Saudi Arabia. It’s amazing to visit other countries because you will discover other cultures and different people with different opinions. What brings people together are morals, smiles and respect for each other. I have found out that if you like what you do or where you are, then you will adapt to that locale without any troubles. On the other hand, if you don’t like or try to like your new situation, you won’t adapt even if you live in your home.

I am glad that I am in America. It is a wonderful country, and what a great city I live in! America has changed many things for me: different thoughts and cultures, and they are interesting and fun. I love being a member of this group here at WCU, and I also love the nature here. I enjoy all my time here in Cullowhee with my awesome friends. The most important part of my life is the time that I spend every day with those people.



IDRIS ALMAKRAMI

TALEB ALSHARMAH



I am so happy to come to the USA. I like everything here and the people here are so nice. I have never seen in all my life a beautiful place like what I have seen in this country. I have learned things here I have never thought about before. I have done things I have never thought I would do in my life.

I came here to America on Aug. 15. I came here to the lovely Whee that is located in the Great Smoky Mountains. I'm studying English in the IEP. Afterward I will study emergency medical care. I have had a great experience learning the American culture, especially since in the fall semester I lived with Wes and Suzanne Stone, a typical American family who are raising their kids by love. I had a great time with them. Then I moved to live in the dorm, and this is a very nice different experience by itself. I love Cullowhee, and at WCU everybody is really friendly. I have met a lot of awesome friends. I'm having too much fun! I love it.



MOHAMMED SHUTAYFI

If you would like to study English, make friends from different countries, and enjoy and participate in leisure activities while learning at the same time, then come to WCU! I found the courses interesting and stimulating

and have improved my English language skills more than I expected. The teaching staff are all very professional, friendly and inspirational. They are always ready to assist and provide any advice to students. Finally, if I had the same chance as before I came here, then I would choose the same place – WCU – as my home.



"JOSEPH" YOUSSEF ALAMRI



The Stone family hosted Joseph Alamri for fall semester. From left are Wes Stone, assistant professor of engineering and technology; wife Suzanne Stone, owner of Rolling Stone Burrito; sons Tucker and Spencer; and Alamri. Also pictured is dog G.F.



IPS Staff Members Visit DC Embassies to Attract Students

John Schweikart, WCU study abroad adviser, and Christopher Pedo, WCU international student adviser, traveled last October to the Washington area to attend a "New Coordinators Workshop" conducted by the International Students Exchange Program, or ISEP, whose home office is in Arlington, Va. ISEP is a network of more than 300 universities in 45 countries worldwide cooperating to provide affordable access to international education for a diverse student population. The ISEP workshop brought together members who had joined ISEP over the past two or less years as well as longtime members who sought to increase their knowledge on student exchanges, advising and recruiting. The workshops provided trainees with a chance to network and learn from each other on best practices. An overview of the program also covered the implementation of ISEP on university campuses.

While in D.C., both advisers visited the Kenyan and Saudi Arabian embassies and shared brochures developed by WCU's International Programs and Services for promoting and degree programs offered at the university. These visits also were occasions to build relationships with the two embassies for possible student exchange agreements. The advisers also took time to meet with coordinators for education at the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission, or SACM. Currently, SACM implements Saudi national educational training policies and supports Saudi students, academically and financially, at institutions that Saudi students attend. One such institution is WCU. At the Kenyan embassy, the advisers met with the Kenyan Secretary for Education and shared news on the 2010 summer trip to Kenya led by Dr. Nyaga Mwaniki of WCU's Anthropology and Sociology Department.

International Programs and Services staff plans to visit more embassies located in Washington and in the Atlanta area to introduce WCU degree programs with the hope of attracting more international students.



CULLOWHEE,
NORTH CAROLINA

Focus on China: 100,000-Strong Initiative Kicks Off

In January Secretary of State Hillary Clinton invited higher education leaders to support President Obama's 100,000 Strong Initiative (www.state.gov/p/eap/regional/100000_strong/index.htm).

The goal is to significantly increase the number of Americans who study in China over the next four years.

"Today, more than ever," wrote Clinton in a letter to NAFSA (Association of International Educators), "There is global understanding that no major challenge can be resolved without the active engagement of both the United States and China. That is why President Obama has called upon the nation to build up a cadre of Americans knowledgeable about Chinese history, culture, and language – a generation of Americans who study China and have studied in China. Specifically, he has challenged the nation to send 100,000 students to China over the next four years, a significant increase over current numbers."

In response, the Study Abroad office at WCU is asking everyone at WCU to help us meet this worthy goal.

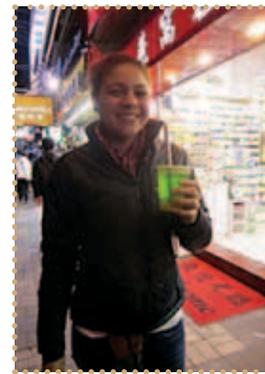
WCU is fortunate to have four exchange partners in China: Chongqing Technical and Business University (CTBU), Guanxi Normal University, Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology, and East China University of Science and Technology. All of these partnerships are exchanges where WCU students take classes taught in English as well as classes to learn some Chinese. Because of the favorable exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the Chinese yuan, the total cost for a semester abroad at these partner institutions is actually less than the cost of attending classes here in Cullowhee. Truly this is a great value for everyone.

In addition to our bilateral agreements with these four institutions in China, WCU students also can study abroad on exchange at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Jianxi University of Finance and Economics, and Sichuan University – Pacific Lutheran University, through our partnership with the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP, www.isep.org).

In her blog, "The Road Less Traveled" (theroadlesstraveledct.blogspot.com), WCU Honors College student, Courtney Timmons wrote: "Sitting and watching

people of various cultures interacting with such excitement and enthusiasm makes me wonder ... all of these countries at war, causing quarrels with one another, yet their people, when placed in a neutral territory with educational purpose, get along perfectly. All people, no matter where they come from, want the same things in life. It is their views on how to get them that are different and cause for egos and conflict. If we all worked together, so much more could be accomplished. Many criticize Obama for

focusing on international relations; however, I think it is our international relations in the end that will make all the difference."

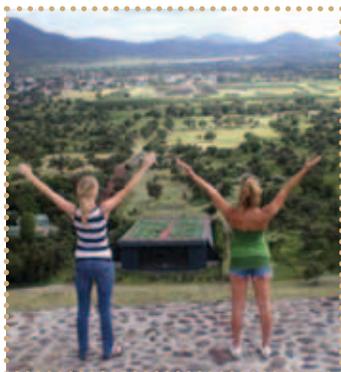


Courtney Timmons out for 'hot pot' on the town in Hong Kong.

In Spite of Challenges, a Wonderful Partnership Continues in Mexico

The past year has been difficult for WCU's partner institutions in Mexico. In spring 2010, the U.S. Department of State issued a number of warnings prompting the University of North Carolina Exchange Program, or UNCEP, to suspend our exchange with the Tec de Monterrey main campus in the city of Monterrey in the State of Sierra Leon as well as all of the other Tec campuses in Mexico, with the exception of the campus in the city of Queretaro (www.study-in-mexico.com).

Last fall, WCU student Sarah Schultz (construction management), studied abroad at Queretaro through the UNCEP exchange. Sarah told us



upon her return that she had a wonderful experience in Queretaro and felt very safe there. Nevertheless, she carefully considered all safety and security information provided to her before her departure, as well as what she had learned during her international student orientation in Mexico.

Last fall, Sarah told us: "I love everything about (Queretaro). ... Mexico has been fantastic so far, everyone I have encountered has been especially nice and helpful. Queretaro in itself is such a beautiful city!"

We certainly agree with her on all accounts. In addition, the International Office at Queretaro is exceptionally helpful in making sure that conditions continue to be as safe as possible for all North

Sarah Schultz (left) and a friend at Teotihuacan, Mexico, fall 2010.



Alicia Miller (right) with a friend at Tec de Monterrey in Queretaro, spring 2011

Carolina system students on this exchange. This spring another WCU student, Alicia Miller (social work) has taken Sarah's place and is studying at the Queretaro campus. Alicia arrived safely in Mexico on Jan. 4 and told us she needed to use her Spanish language skills immediately upon arrival and that she is rapidly improving with each passing day. We will keep our eyes on changing conditions in Mexico, but it is comforting to know we have such a great partner in the campus at Queretaro looking out for our student's safety so that this great exchange can continue.

Monica Schledorn is the Study Abroad Office's Spring Intern

WCU student and study abroad returnee Monica Schledorn (business) is doing her business internship with the study abroad section of International Programs and Services.

We first got to know Monica in spring 2009 when she applied for the International



Monica Schledorn in Portsmouth, England, spring 2010.

Grants & Scholarships: Study Abroad Funding Opportunities Continue to Grow

IPS, the Office of the Provost and WCU Administration and Finance are working together to distribute up to \$30,000 in scholarships in 2011-12 for students applying for summer, semester and yearlong study abroad programs through WCU. These need-based scholarships are designed to help students in need afford any WCU-approved study abroad program including international internships. All WCU students applying to study abroad programs or international internships are encouraged to complete a FAFSA form (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and apply for these new scholarships through our office.

In addition to these need-based scholarships, WCU students continue to find support from other scholarships and grants, one being the Gilman Scholarship (www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program), which offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad. Typically, scholarships up to \$5,000 are awarded each academic year for U.S. citizen undergraduates to study abroad. Award amounts vary depending on the length of study and student need, with the average award being approximately \$4,000. Students

who apply for and receive this scholarship also are eligible to receive an additional \$3,000 Critical Need Language Supplement from the Gilman Scholarship Program for a total possible award of up to \$8,000.

For spring 2011, WCU Honors College student Desiree Reagan (finance) has been awarded a Gilman Scholarship for her Spanish language studies in Cuzco, Peru, and her subsequent internship in Santiago, Chile, with the ECELA Program (www.ecela.com/).

International Programs and Services also encourages all WCU students interested in studying abroad to consult with their academic departments on campus and to come and talk to us about grants and scholarships and to visit our website, www.wcu.edu/9525.asp, or contact John Schweikart at jschweikart@wcu.edu.

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Gilman Scholarship recipient Desiree Reagan in Cuzco, Peru.

WCU Students Study Abroad from Australia to Wales

AUSTRALIA

Kaitlan Conger (*Honors College, elementary education*) *University of Technology, Sydney*

Emily Goodman (*Honors College, English*) *University of the Sunshine Coast*

Nikki Ray Harrold (*Honors College, biology*) *University of Canberra*

CHILE

Desiree Reagan (*Honors College, finance*), *ECELA Program, Santiago*

Ian Youmans (*Honors College, biology*), *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso*

CHINA

Courtney Timmons (*Honors College, business management*), *Chinese University, Hong Kong*

FRANCE

Sarah Jaffee (*anthropology*), *SKEMA, Sophia Antipolis*

IRELAND

Michael Kahn (*parks and recreation*), *Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Castlebar (2010-11)*

ITALY

John Schmulling (*entrepreneurship*), *Lorenzo De'Medici, Florence*

JAPAN

Max DeGrove (*Honors College, engineering technology*), *Osaka Kyoiku University (2010-11)*

Jessica Sloan (*Honors College, Asian studies*), *Kansai Gaidai (fall 2010) and Chukyo University (spring 2011)*

MEXICO

Alicia Miller (*social work*), *Tecnológico Monterrey, Queretaro Campus*

NETHERLANDS

Sarah Evans (*business*), *Avans – international business studies, Breda, 2010-11*

Allison Ray (*Honors College, forensic science*), *Avans – advanced chemistry program, Breda*

PERU

Desiree Reagan (*Honors College, finance*), *ECELA Program, Cuzco*

SPAIN

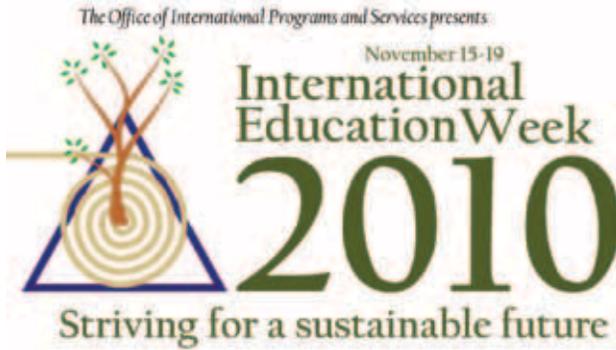
Klara Ledford (*teaching fellow, secondary education*), *ILYC, Granada*

Kaitlan Pangle (*political science*), *ILYC, Granada*

WALES

Seth Crockett (*Honors College, political science*) *University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd*

Katie Jones (*Honors College, history*) *University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd*



Workshop Focuses on Fostering Ties with Germany

On Feb. 18, student services specialist Kevin Childers and study abroad adviser John Schweikart attended a workshop in Washington on study and research opportunities in Baden-Württemberg, Germany. The Goethe Institute in Washington held this workshop and focused on exchange and career opportunities for U.S. university students and young scientists at universities in southwestern Germany. Representatives from the University of Freiburg, University of Heidelberg, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, and the German Academic Exchange Service – New York were present. The workshop was of particular interest because these universities all have existing exchange partnerships with WCU under the UNCEP/Baden-Württemberg agreement. Childers and Schweikart personally paid for much of the travel expense because of the current state budget crisis.



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