

the **GLOBE**

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY | INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES | FALL 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



FIRST INTERNATIONAL HONOR SCHOLARSHIP

The Office of International Programs and Services (IPS) awarded Mr. Sental Prakash Chinnachamy, current WCU international student from India, the first International Student Honor Scholarship worth \$1,500 during the summer 2007 session. Beth Walden, WCU international student advisor indicated that IPS received a good number of applications this year and that Sental's stood out among them all. "Not only has he worked to internationalize the campus through his extra-curricular activities, but he is the very embodiment of a global citizen," said Walden. "Sental is an excellent representative of our international community and was the most deserving candidate for this scholarship."

Chinnachamy first encountered WCU on the USnews.com website while researching universities to apply for admission. "I was impressed with WCU even when I was just browsing through its website," he said. "Cullowhee has been a wonderful transition for me from the city life in India. I love the mountains and it is a great place to study. The people here are very helpful, welcoming and sweet. Overall, it is a fantastic environment here."

In his free time, Chinnachamy says he likes to garden, listen to music, and watch videos with great dance moves. He also enjoys traveling. "I would like to travel all over the world and explore new places and learn to speak new foreign languages," he said. "I am interested in doing a lot of community work."

Currently completing an MBA program, Chinnachamy intends to work as a Strategic Business consultant for a couple of years before working on a Ph.D. "My dream, in the long run, is to be an entrepreneur," Chinnachamy stated.

- 1] A Visit to Japan...pg. 11
- 2] Nursing Mission in Ecuador...pg. 10
- 3] Western Students Around the Globe...pg. 6
- 4] Study Abroad Advisory...pg. 4
- 5] International Research...pg. 8
- 6] Snapshots...pg. 11

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY *international news*

Study Abroad and International Student Services are primary initiatives in the office of International Programs and Services, but there are many activities that are intertwined with these twin endeavors. The K-12 International Outreach Program, the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars, the Asia Initiatives, and departmental/faculty international projects depend on and support student exchange programs at WCU.

THE WORLD COMES TO OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The K-12 International Outreach Program will begin its sixth year at WCU. Each year, international students, former WCU exchange students, and WCU faculty and staff visit the public schools in the eight most western counties in North Carolina to introduce public school students and their teachers to various aspects of international cultures. Last year 120 presentations were made.

Since 1997, IPS has maintained the local K-12 International Outreach Program. The Program's mission is to expand international perspectives and cross-cultural competence in the surrounding communities and counties of WNC. This program has been an informative resource for hundreds of students and teachers in WNC for almost a decade.

For more information about the program, or to volunteer your expertise, call 828.227.7494.

PHI BETA DELTA HONOR SOCIETY AT WCU

If you have lived or researched overseas, learned a second language, or are engaged in furthering the importance of a global perspective in your classes, there is a group of students, faculty and staff at WCU that promotes internationalization on the WCU campus. The Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars sponsors a monthly brown bag lunch, guest speakers, a \$500 annual travel grant for members and participates in International Education Week and International Festival activities. Our recent recipient of the 2006 and 2007 \$1,000 Phi Beta Delta Travel Grant is Dr. Laura Wright, assistant professor in the Department of English. Dr. Wright used the grant to partially fund a trip to South Africa this summer where she presented a paper on her research



Dr. Laura Wright and her husband, Jason Sellers, visit the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa.

at the 50th Annual Conference of the International Federation for Theatre Research held at Stellenbosch, South Africa.



PHI BETA DELTA TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENT - LAURA WRIGHT

Facilitating more opportunities for WCU faculty to travel and research abroad, the office of International Programs and Services continues to bring

visibility to the development and internationalization of the WCU curriculum.

Recently, Dr. Laura Wright, Asst. Professor, English, received a \$1,000 travel grant to visit South Africa in July 2007 through the local Delta Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society of International Scholars. Wright has been part of the English Department since August 2005.

Dr. Wright attended the 50th Annual Conference of the International Federation for Theatre Research held at Stellenbosch, South Africa. Wright's abstract, "Casting the Bones, Performing the Bodies: Divination, Dialogism and Adaptation in the Works of Suzan-Lori Parks," was listed in the Conference's main program.

During her visit to South Africa, Wright had the opportunity to visit the vineyards around Stellenbosch and to venture to Capetown and the Cape of Good Hope.

Asked about her travel experiences, Wright stated that she was too frightened to study or travel abroad in her early years as a college student, but believes that it is great idea for students to take the risk to study abroad. "I'm impressed with students who choose to travel abroad," Wright said, "but I do think it is a challenge to get students to care about the major issues and for faculty to demonstrate why students should study abroad."

Wright stated how delighted she is that the WCU English Department has responded to the initiative to revamp English survey courses related to include more international literature and to better expose WCU students to the world via literature. In like manner, the English department hosts the annual Literary Festival

1st annual STUDY ABROAD FAIR AT WCU

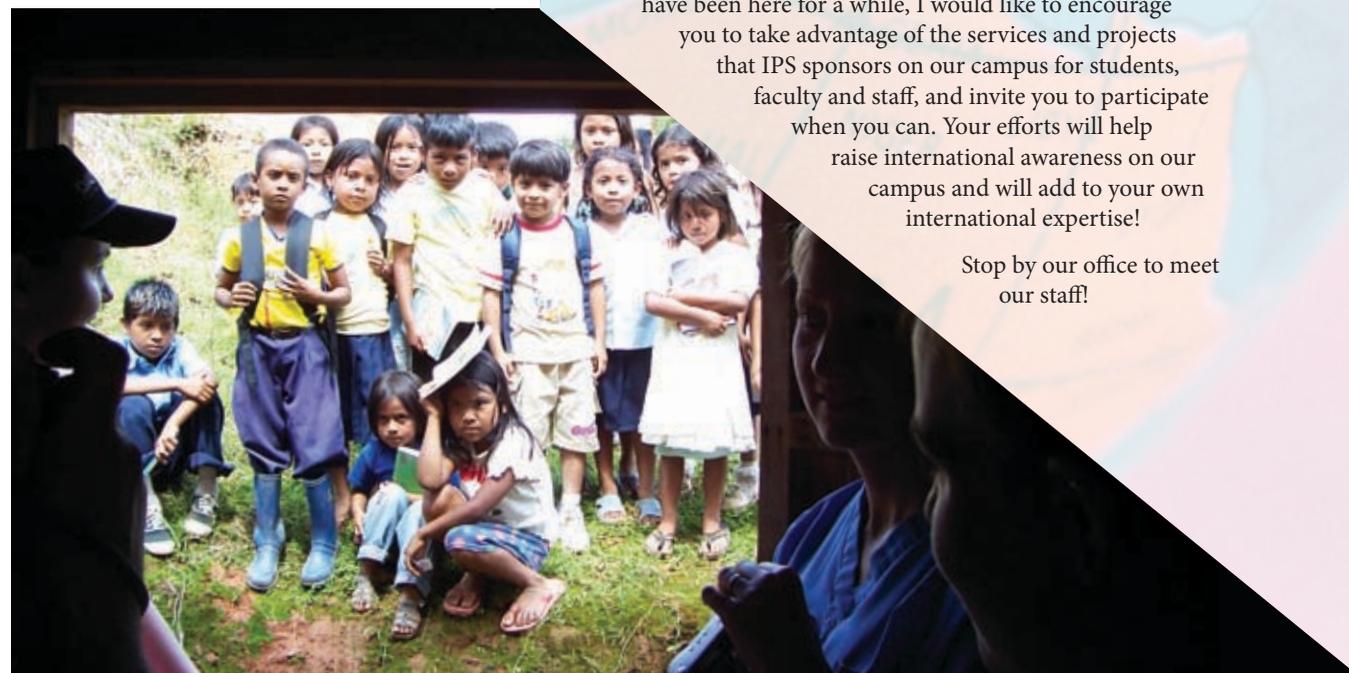


In honor of the Paul Simon Foundation Act for Study Abroad as well as Hispanic Heritage Month, International Programs and Services is hosting our first-ever Study Abroad Fair on **Wednesday, September 26th in the UC Grand room from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.**

This multi-media event with lively music, videos, as well as lots of printed information will be attended by over 20 representatives from partner universities and study abroad programs from around the world including but not limited to programs in Australia, England, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, and even South Korea. Information on scholarships and grant opportunities will be provided as well as information on how a study abroad experience can be applied towards many kinds of internationally-focused careers or volunteer opportunities. In addition, information on how to become involved with all kinds of international initiatives at WCU will also be provided by the students and organizations actively engaged in these activities. All representatives on hand will be glad to answer any questions you may have about research, volunteer work, internships, as well as traditional academic programs available for summer, semester, and year-long programs.

For more information, send an e-mail to jschweikart@wcu.edu

Ecuadorian children seen here during WCU's Nursing Mission there this summer.



director's CORNER



The Office of International Programs and Services (IPS) is the one office on campus charged with coordinating WCU's efforts to internationalize the campus, curriculum and larger community.

We have bilateral and consortial contractual agreements with over 220 universities world-wide for student and faculty exchanges. Students are studying major, minor, and liberal studies courses in countries such as Hungary, Iceland, Wales, Japan, Korea, Ireland and Denmark where courses, and sometimes whole programs, are being taught in English.

In addition to typical exchange programs, WCU offers business, construction management and political science students the opportunity to earn dual degrees with universities overseas. We are eager to work with other departments on establishing overseas connections for student and faculty exchanges, collaborative research, and professional development because developing an international dimension is an essential part of the WCU identity for students and faculty.

IPS is particularly committed to increasing the ethnic diversity of the WCU community by recruiting international students, issuing F-1 and J-1 student visas, and petitioning for H-1B and PERM (permanent residence) visas on the part of international faculty. And, not forgetting the community at large, our K-12 International Outreach Program, affiliated with the same program at UNC-Chapel Hill, provides quality presentations on various cultures to the public schools in our region.

For those of you new to WCU, and for those of you who have been here for a while, I would like to encourage you to take advantage of the services and projects that IPS sponsors on our campus for students, faculty and staff, and invite you to participate when you can. Your efforts will help raise international awareness on our campus and will add to your own international expertise!

Stop by our office to meet our staff!

2007-2008 is shaping up to be quite the academic year for Study Abroad at WCU. While 2006 was officially declared “The Year of Study Abroad” by Congress, things are really picking up steam for 2007. At the national level, the Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act came into being last June and holds enormous potential for more study abroad opportunities. Significant developments in funding are on the horizon for U.S. college students to realize their dream of making a life-changing international experience part of their college education.

Our goal in the study abroad section is to make sure that Western Carolina University students are ready to take full advantage of opportunities made available by this important piece of U.S. legislation. For more information about the Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act, go to the following website: www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h110-1469.

While the numbers of students studying abroad from Fall 2005 through Summer 2007 remained relatively constant, we are seeing a 20-30% jump in study abroad applicants for Fall '07. WCU students are venturing forth to find new destinations in '07 which include Peking University in China (Maxwell Long), and the University of South Pacific on the Island of Fiji (Jessica Martin). Furthermore, we are very excited about a new opportunity with Edge Hill University, near Liverpool, England, where art education graduate student, Alison Felton, will be the first-ever WCU student to do her student teaching with a class of grade school children in the United Kingdom.

2007: LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Study Abroad in the Far East began to take shape with the signing of a Study Abroad agreement between Hiroshima, Naruto Kiouku, and Osaka Kiouku Universities in Japan in the Summer of 2006. One clear result of this is the phenomenal success WCU students have had in being awarded scholarships to study in Japan. Fine Arts major, Vanessa Lange is the first-ever WCU student to be awarded a Freeman-Asia Scholarship. She went overseas this past spring and will

be studying for a year at Obirin University in Tokyo. Two more WCU students will be on scholarships studying abroad in Japan starting this Fall 2007. Melissa Mills, WCU art major, is our first-ever student to study at Osaka Kiouku University and is eligible for the JASSO scholarship for her 2007-2008 year in Japan. The second, Matt Willis, is receiving a Gillman Scholarship for his 2007-2008 year at Hiroshima University to study international business.

SOUTH KOREA: THE ASIAN TIGER!

Another great thing coming from Asia in 2007 is the development of our partnership with two fantastic schools on the Korean Peninsula, Dong-A University in the city of Busan, and Hannam University in Daejeon. Both of these universities offer extensive courses taught in English, and are exchange programs where tuition and fees are paid only to WCU—making them very affordable. On a limited basis, our partners have offered FREE housing as well as a free meal stipend in a wonderfully safe campus environment. South Korea is widely acclaimed as a marvelous



destination in which to experience a dynamic eastern culture at the technological cutting-edge. South Korea is also achieving a very impressive global presence while simultaneously maintaining its firm and lasting hold on its ancient traditions, its unique art, and its rich culture. These two destinations will soon be highly sought after as more and more WCU students become interested in the great Asian Tiger... South Korea!



“NETHERLANDS” MEANS BUSINESS!

For the past year, one of our WCU students has been keeping us up-to-date on her marvelous experience as a study abroad student on the Dual Degree Program in International Business between WCU and the Avans Hogeschool in The Netherlands. You still can check out her blog at the following website: www.wcublog.com/tm/

After a year of intensive study, hard work, as well as travel to England, France, Italy, and even Poland, “T.M.” has made the most of her study abroad experience and has earned two diplomas in International Business, one from WCU, and one from the Avans Hogeschool in Breda, The Netherlands. This innovative program of cooperation between the College of Business at WCU and the Avans Hogeschool allows students like T.M. to earn two full undergraduate degrees with no more than a year abroad in combination with her three years at Western. As she herself has said, “By studying abroad I accomplished so many different things at the same time that I would never had been able to accomplish if I had only stayed on campus in America. This year has been a wonderful ending to my college career and will set me apart in my professional life.”

Apparently other WCU students have taken her words to heart, since two have applied for the Dual Degree Program in International Business for the 2007-2008 academic year.

WCU also has Dual Degree Programs in Business and Construction Management at Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology in Ireland, and Dual Degree Programs in Business and Political Science at the University of Glamorgan in Wales, from which students can graduate in four years with two full-fledged diplomas for the same tuition and fees paid to WCU for the entire time!

Photo, far left: Park workers prepare for Memorial Day at the Hiroshima Memorial Park, Japan. Photo, left: The City of Busan. Photo, above: Dr. Lois Petrovich-Mwaniki visits with Emiko Nishiwaki (far right) and Rie Matsumiya (far left) and Junna Yamamoto, in Japan. Matsumiya and Yamamoto are now “on exchange” at WCU for one year.

at WCU that has recently featured more international authors and emphasized world perspectives.

Wright is currently working on a manuscript, “‘Wilderness into Civilized Shapes’: Reading the Postcolonial Environment” which is under contract with SUNY (State University of New York) Press, Albany. The text examines works by authors from South Africa, India, Kenya, Nigeria, New Zealand, and North America.

HUMPHREY SCHOLARS PROGRAM WITH UNC-CHAPEL HILL

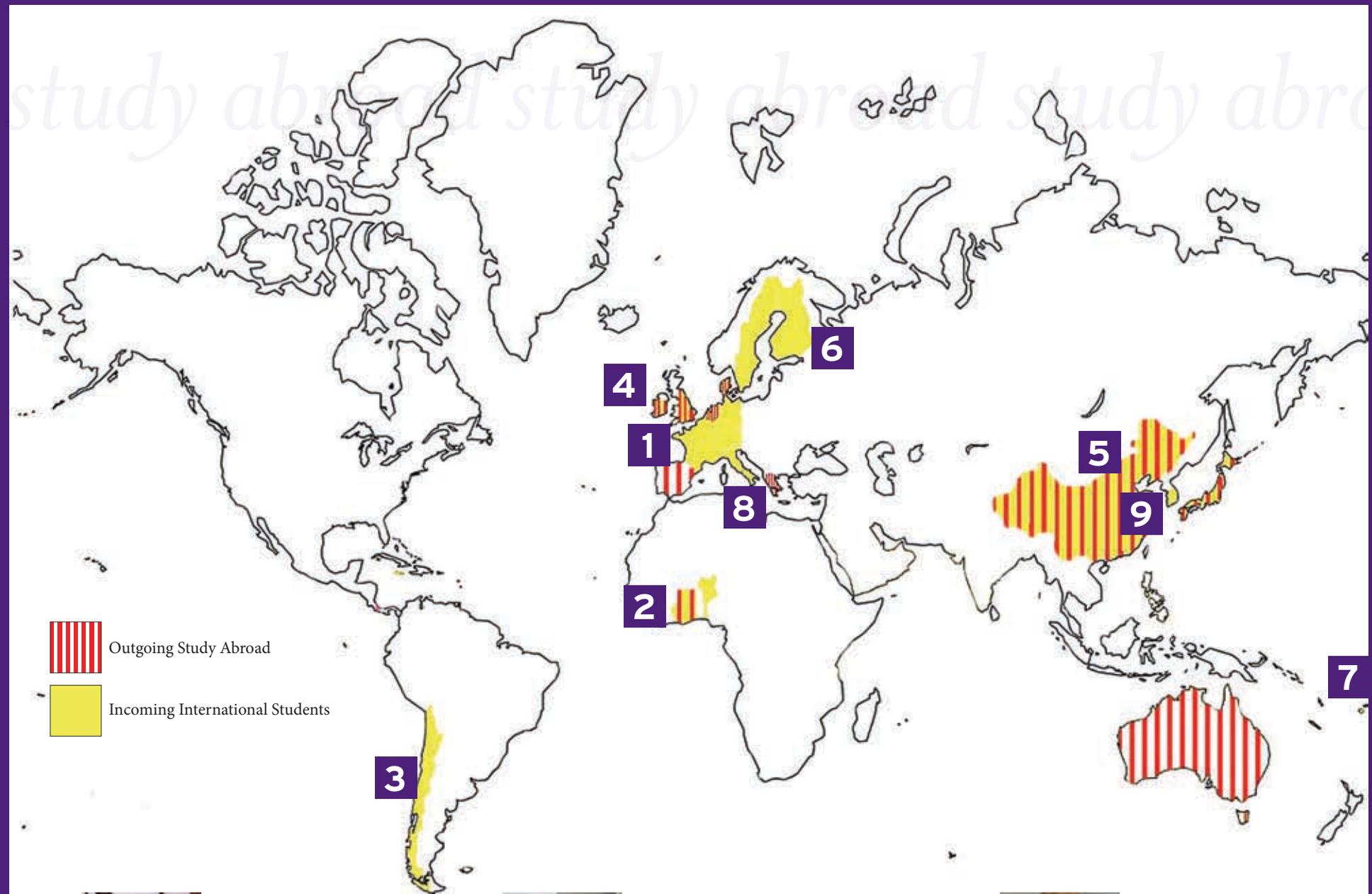
The WCU Department of Political Science, Local Government Training Program, International Programs and Services, and the Department of Public Policy at UNC-Chapel Hill were funded by the International Institute of Education (I.I.E.) to bring six Humphrey Fellows to work with undergraduate students and Political Science faculty this academic year. Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows are nominated by U.S. Embassies or the Fulbright Commissions around the world for additional training at U.S. research universities for one year. This year, I.I.E. expanded the program to include projects with regional universities. Two universities in the UNC system submitted proposals and the one submitted by WCU was selected by I.I.E.

The Fellows will present papers and lead one of the discussion groups at the annual summit sponsored by the Public Policy Institute at WCU on Thursday, November 15. The topic for the summit this year is: *Emergency Leadership: Preparing for the 21st Century (Health, Terrorism, Weather and Campus Safety)*.

The major project for the year will be a collaboration between the Fellows, Western Carolina University undergraduate students and faculty, and local government in the western region of North Carolina. There will be three teams, each composed of two Fellow volunteers, two undergraduate WCU students, one WCU faculty member and one local government representative from either Swain, Cherokee, Haywood, Jackson or Macon County.

The Local Government Training Program on WCU’s campus, headed by Vickey Wade, will identify the local government officials from three different counties with whom the Fellows and WCU student/faculty team will work with to understand and help solve civic/social problems that include WCU, as well as surrounding communities. The Fellows will co-chair the team offering an international perspective to resolving the issues. The Fellows will visit the WCU campus in mid-October in order to learn more about the area and meet WCU and local group participants.





 Outgoing Study Abroad
 Incoming International Students

2007-2008 INTERNATIONAL VISITING SCHOLARS



Since March 2007, Mr. Shu Zeng Wang has been a visiting scholar in the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics, College of Business. Mr. Wang is from Shandong Province and is researching tax regulations in the United States. He has received a one-year grant from his government to work with WCU professors on comparative tax research and to guest-lecture in classes.



Mr. Sun Jing joins us from the Foreign Languages and Literatures College, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, to teach Chinese in the Department of Modern Foreign Languages. He will be teaching beginning and intermediate Chinese and one Chinese Culture course this fall. Fudan University is a partner of the University of North Carolina Exchange Program and was visited by Dr. Steve Hensen and a group of WCU students this summer as part of a faculty-lead course to China.



Dr. Jang-Woo Choi is professor of International Business at Hannam University, South Korea, one of WCU's newest exchange partners. He will be spending one year researching Trade Policy and International Marketing with colleagues in the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics, College of Business. Dr. Choi has been joined by his wife, daughter (who will attend Smoky Mountain High School), and son (who will attend WCU for the year). Hannam University is also eager to welcome WCU faculty as visiting scholars in many of their departments.



Emiko Nishiwaki was selected by the Laurasian Institution to become the Japan Outreach Coordinator for the western region of North Carolina for the next two years. Ms. Nishiwaki will provide presentations about Japanese culture and demonstrations of Japanese arts and crafts—particularly ikebana and Japanese calligraphy. She will offer her services to the Western Carolina Japanese language program, regional public schools, local community colleges and universities, public libraries, and community groups. Her office is in International Programs and Services, Belk Building.



1 **MARIE LE CERF**
Undergraduate student from France, studying Political Science.



2 **JENNIEV DOWDLE**
WCU Honors student studying Philosophy and Spanish in Ghana.



3 **DANIELA GONZALEZ**
Undergraduate student from Chile, studying Teaching English as a Second Language.



4 **ALISON HUGHES**
Undergraduate student from Ireland, studying Parks & Recreation Management.



5 **MAX LONG**
WCU Political Science major venturing to Peking University in China.



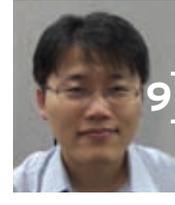
6 **JUHA MAKKONEN**
Undergraduate student from Finland, studying Special Education.



7 **JESSICA MARTIN**
First WCU Student to attend The University of the South Pacific on the island of Fiji.



8 **DAVIDE NICOLA**
Graduate student from Italy, working on his Masters in Business.

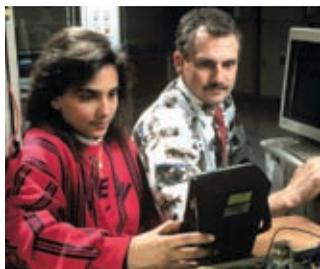


9 **SUNG-GUN PARK**
Graduate student from Korea, finishing his Masters in Chemistry.

Students above are only a few of the 79 international students currently at WCU and the 26 WCU students currently studying abroad.

DEPARTMENTAL AND FACULTY *international initiatives*

A number of international research projects are currently being undertaken by WCU faculty. Below is a sampling of those currently underway:



Aaron Ball (*pictured with student*) and James Zhang (Engineering and Technology, Kimmel School) and Alan Windham (graduate student in Engineering and Technology, Kimmel

School) had an article, "Verification and Optimization of Operational Amplifiers Utilizing a Designed Experiment," published in Volume 7, Number 2, Spring 2007 volume of *The International Journal of Modern Engineering*. The purpose of this research was to determine modeling accuracy of software versus real time characteristics using a two-level factorial design.



Laura Cruz (History, Arts and Sciences) is researching the Market Culture in the 17th Century Netherlands and is working on two edited volumes in Dutch History.

Dr. Cruz is funded by the Society Netherlandic History and the WCU History Department. Two articles have been contracted for this research, and her research conclusions will be presented at the European Social History Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, this February.

Jack Summers (Chemistry and Physics, Arts and Sciences) is currently working with Dr. Daniel Meyerstein, in Ariel, Israel, on the Measure Rates of Fluoride/Metal Association and Demonstration of Biological Importance. This research will result in published articles and undergraduate research projects. "We established the collaboration to support ongoing research in our lab. The purpose of the collaboration was to gain access to equipment and expertise that is unavailable at WCU. Before contacting Professor Meyerstein, I tried unsuccessfully to establish a similar collaboration with a research group at Brookhaven National Lab. It turns out that the project is more in line with the research interests of Professor Myerstein's group, and he was willing to help. Right now, we are in the middle of writing a manuscript describing the work. Once the manuscript is finished we intend to submit it to the *Journal of the American Chemical*

Society for their consideration. I am very happy with the quality of the science described in this manuscript, and I am confident that we will have little trouble publishing it," said Dr. Summers.

Eleanor Blair Hilty (Department of Educational Leadership and Foundations, Education and Allied Professions) is conducting research among the teachers of Monte Montego Bay, Kingston, Mandeville and Discovery Bay, Jamaica. The topic is, "Moonlighting Among Jamaican Educators" and is part of a Cross-Cultural Comparison Between Jamaican and American Educators. This research will result in conference presentations, articles and a book.

Elizabeth Walden (International Programs and Services and Philosophy and Religion, Arts and Sciences) is writing about, presenting, and publishing her research about the "Asian International Student and the Millennial Generation: Asian Culture and Religion on U.S. College Campuses." This research was presented at an International Conference in July and will be published as part of the conference proceedings.



Jerry Miller (Geosciences and Natural Resources, Arts and Sciences) is working on two international research projects involving non-point source pollutants in the Berg and Mkhabela Basins of South Africa and the Brown Basin in Queensland, Australia. Each project has received funding for initial trips to each region to begin identifying the primary

sources of non-point source pollutants to rivers and reservoirs and to document the means through which these pollutants are transported to aquatic systems. The South Africa project, a collaboration with the South African Water Research Commission, the University of Pretoria, the University of Western Cape, (Cape Town) and the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (Pietermaritzburg), is being funded initially by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Australian project, a collaboration with the Australian federal agency, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) and the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (UK), is being funded by the Whitmire Endowment.

James Thompson (Art and Design, Fine and Performing Arts) is collaborating with Barbara Wright, professor emeritus of the Department of French, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, about Eugene Fromentin, a French 19th Century painter-draughtsman. Their previous work resulted in several published articles and a catalogue on Fromentin. This research will result in a series of published articles as well as graduate and undergraduate research projects.



Mary Anne Nixon (Management and International Business, College of Business) is working with Jim Kasprzak of the National Defense University, Washington, D.C., on how technology (cell phones, PDA's, computers, availability of online education) is assisting/empowering/enabling women in developing countries go into business, complete their education, etc. Their previous research resulted in two recent publications: *Cell Phone Transforming the Third World*. (Spring 2007) *The Information Leader*, (A quarterly Journal on Information Trends by the World Leader in Information Resources Management Education) Volume 12, No. 2, P. 1-3, and *Women and Telecommunications Technologies: The International Impact*, (May, 2007), published in the *Proceedings, Costa Rica Global Conference on Business and Finance*, Institute for Business and Finance Research. This presentation received the best presentation in session award.

Jane Nichols (Art and Design, Fine and Performing Arts) is working with Professor A. Aramov and his Interior Design students from the British Higher School of Art and Design, Moscow, Russia, on international sustainable design for interior spaces in order to achieve a better understanding of global design. Their research will result in prototype recommendations and specifications, as well as an article submitted to the *Journal of Interior Design*.

Maurice Phipps (Health, Physical Education and Recreation; Health and Human Sciences) is collaborating with Graham Clarke (Outdoor Education, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Galway, Ireland) to improve outdoor education instruction in both countries by investigating the soft skills of outdoor instruction. They are currently using the Importance-Performance Evaluation Technique to analyze the data as to whether technical skills are covered better than soft skills. The research is being submitted to the *UK Outdoor Journal* and will result in undergraduate research projects as well.



James Zhang, Ken Burbank, and Duane Dunlap (*pictured*) (Engineering and Technology, Kimmel School) collaborated on research concerning Graduate Education through International Collaboration: Potentials and

Issues from a Curriculum Perspective that was presented at the 10th UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education, People's Republic of China, March 19-23, 2007.



James Zhang (*pictured*) and a graduate student Lingtao Zhang (Engineering and Technology, Kimmel School) collaborated with Shu-ci Wu (School of Electronics and

Information Engineering, Central South University of Forestry and Technology, Changsha, China) and Lingbo Zhang (Institute of Automation, East China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai, China), on research involving Adaptive Reliable and Robust H-infinity Control for Non-linear Systems with Parametric Uncertainties and External Disturbances, that was presented at the 9th International Conference on Control, Automation, Robotics and Vision in Singapore, December 5-8, 2006.



Judy Mallory and Anne Marie Jones (School of Nursing, Health and Human Sciences) are assessing the impact of an international



education experience on nursing students' cross-cultural attitudes and will publish and present their findings this year. For the past two years, Mallory and Jones have taken a group of students to Ecuador as part of a summer nursing course. (See article about trip on page 10.)

WESTERN STUDENTS *around the globe*

INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Early this summer, a group of students and faculty from WCU traveled to Ecuador for a course entitled “Nursing 345—International Missionary/Volunteer Nursing.” The group was comprised of 10 nursing students (one of whom is originally from Ecuador), a recreational therapy major, two nutrition majors, and a student who is double-majoring in communications and Spanish. Both faculty members are RNs from the School of Nursing.



On May 27, the group flew to Quito, Ecuador together with 12 members from the Alliance Bible Church in Sylva. This group had two physicians,

four nurses, a pastor, and five other members that worked primarily with children’s ministry. After spending one night in a hostel in Quito, they were joined by a local missionary and seven translators before traveling for 9 hours by bus north to San Lorenzo. Because of the proximity to the Colombian border and the level of violence in that area, they were accompanied by a group of Ecuadorian soldiers. The following morning, they were taken—by motorized dugout canoes—up the Rio Santiago to a jungle village, where a two-day medical clinic was conducted for the local people. Many of these people had never had access to medical care.



Over the next six days, the group traveled to five other villages in the jungle, as well as the mountains where we conducted similar medical clinics. The students were able to assist with the medical assessments and treatments, distribute and administer medications, and provide health education and basic nursing care to the people. They also had the opportunity to spend a day at Voz Andes, the largest hospital in Quito, where they were able to observe the provision of health care in a tertiary-care setting.

During their time in Ecuador, the students were exposed to a variety of different cultural groups, languages, and geographic areas. They were also able to experience, on a short-term basis, what it is like to serve as a missionary in another country. Most stated that they had a new appreciation for the blessings that are taken for granted and enjoyed in the United States – i.e., material things as well as access to health care and clean drinking water.

Photos: Both photos are of the members of the Nursing 345: International Missionary class during their visit to Ecuador, Summer 2007.

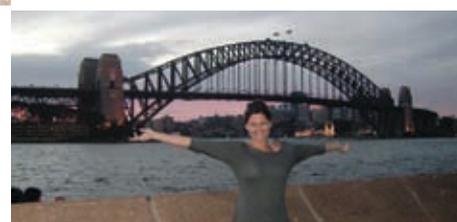
SUMMER 2007 CLASS TRIP TO ITALY AND GREECE by Russell Conover

After a semester of studying the culture of Italy and Greece and some related travel aspects, I joined my class of 27, this summer, to take an 18-day trip to these countries. The trip was awesome since it brought to life many of the things we discussed during the semester. All locations were incredible in their own way, but my two personal highlights were the Parthenon and the Pantheon because I had studied them previously and never dreamt I would see them in person. The sights and sounds were amazing.

Language was not a problem for the majority of the trip. Most shopkeepers and people spoke a little English, and I also learned some phrases in Italian and Greek. The people were quite friendly and welcoming

overall, and they were helpful to our class. Our class members also got to know each other well after a semester at WCU and 18 days on the trip.

My excursion to Italy and Greece was the trip of a lifetime since the things I saw and did simply blew me away. Our days were packed full of activities, and our class’s personal tour guide was top-notch. I wholeheartedly recommend the trip to Italy and Greece to those who are interested, since it is one to remember forever.



SNAPSHOTS *from around the globe*



TRAVEL TO JAPAN

In May 2007, Asian Studies Coordinator, Masafumi Takeda, led 24 WCU students on a three-week visit to Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, and Hiroshima, Japan to see the cultural differences among those places. This was the second trip led by Takeda to Japan.



WCU students use “Hisyaka” to cleanse their mouths before entering the Ise Shrine, Japan.

“We focused a little more on Japanese traditional and modern art compared to the last trip,” said Takeda. Since the focus of this trip was on Japanese Art, Takeda invited Dr. Erin Tapley,

associate professor, art education, to join the trip. From Tokyo to Osaka and then to Hiroshima, the group took Japan’s famous bullet train to visit a number of museums, temples, and shrines to learn how Japanese culture was, has been, is, and will be. Tapley took some of the students to the Ise Shrine, which is located in

the Mie prefecture, while Takeda arranged a tour of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and its museum to learn more about the impact of the atom bomb on the city during the Second World War and the peace movement today. In Kyoto, the students visited Gion, a famous entertainment district of the city, and hiked up to the Hushimi Inari Shrine.

Besides these places, students also visited Osaka Kyoiku University, and its attached elementary school, in order to briefly observe how schools are administered in Japan. They also met with current students from Osaka Kyoiku University.

Overall, Takeda believes it was an eye-opening experience for all of his students as they attempted to use their language skills to communicate, read signs, etc., and decide what food to eat. “We could not spend more time in a very rural area of Japan,” Takeda said, “which I would like to include for the next trip to Japan.”

This fall, and for the first time, two students from Osaka Kyoiku University will attend WCU via a consortium agreement with three universities in Japan: Osaka Kyoiku University, Hiroshima University, and Naruto Kyoiku University.



INTERNATIONAL *events on campus*

SEPTEMBER

September - October: Study Abroad Classroom Presentations. Classroom visits all over main campus. *To request a presentation, contact John Schweikart, 227-2567.*

September 15 - October 12: Hispanic Heritage Month: See forthcoming website link for more information.

September 17-19: Japan Consortium Delegation Visits

September 19: Phi Beta Delta Brown Bag Luncheon.
UC Catamount Room, 12:15-1:05 pm.

- **Pavel Wlosok, Assistant Professor, Music**
"Summer Research in Berlin, Krakow, and Prague"

WCU faculty member Pavel Wlosok will talk about his experience teaching and lecturing at 2007 summer jazz camp in Prague, as well as performing at international jazz festivals and jazz clubs in Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic during the Summer 2007.

September 21: UNCEP Exchange Application Deadline for Spring 2008 semester.

September 26: 1st Annual Study Abroad Fair.
UC Grand Room, 10 am-3 pm.

OCTOBER

October 1: WCU Bilateral & Unilateral Study Abroad Programs Application Deadline for Spring 2008 semester.

October 17: Phi Beta Delta Brown Bag Luncheon.
UC Catamount Room, 12:15-1:05 pm.

- **Emiko Nishiwaki, Japan Outreach Intern, International Programs and Services**
"The Japan Outreach Program comes to Western North Carolina!"

Nishiwaki, selected by the Laurasian Institution and sponsored by Western Carolina University, is the first Japan Outreach Intern assigned to Western North Carolina. She brings a wealth of information about Japan to WCU and the surrounding public schools, public agencies and organizations. She will describe her role at WCU for the next two years and demonstrate one of her many special, cultural talents.

October 28 - November 3

International Education Week.

Various locations on WCU campus / classrooms.

NOVEMBER

November 2: "Glo-ball." *Location TBA, 6-11 pm.*

November 3: Mandatory Study Abroad Orientation. WCU Bilateral / Direct Enrollment programs for Spring 2008 semester. *Camp Building, 8:30 am-4 pm.*

November 3: Mandatory Study Abroad Orientation. UNCEP and ISEP Exchanges—Held at UNC—Greensboro

November 11: Phi Beta Delta Induction Dinner.
Hospitality Room/Ramsey Center, Time TBA

November 14: Phi Beta Delta Brown Bag Luncheon.
UC Catamount Room, 12:15-1:05 pm.

- **Laura Wright, Asst. Professor, English Department**
"The Township Gaze: The Politics of Looking at the 'Other' Cape Town"

DECEMBER

December 4: Mandatory Health & Safety Orientation for Spring 2008 Semester. *Camp Building, 10 am-12 pm.*



Western students visit with International Student Advisor, Beth Walden, during Valley Ballyhoo, August 2007.

Western Carolina University is a University of North Carolina campus and an Equal Opportunity Institution. 1,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$1,222.26, or \$1.22 per copy. Office of Public Relations/Publications September 2007 07-411

WESTERN
CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

A University of North Carolina campus

International Programs and Services
183 Belk Building
Cullowhee, NC 28723

