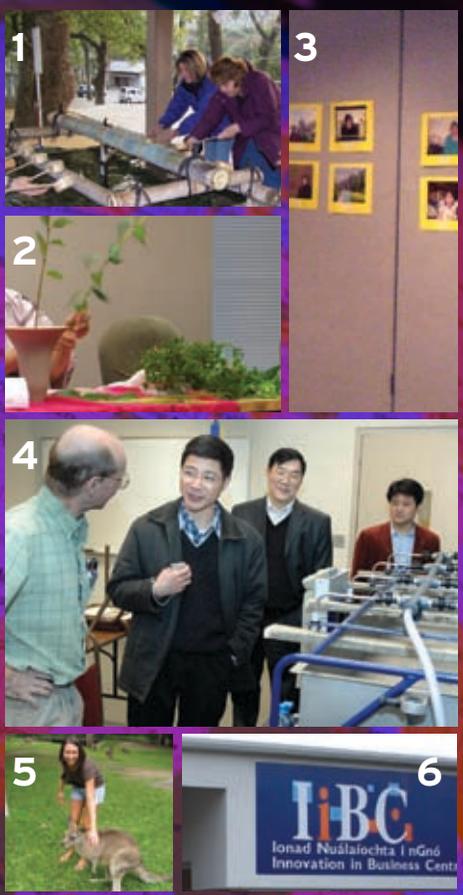


# the GLOBE

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY | INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES | SPRING 2008

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## 29TH ANNUAL *international festival*



This year the 29th Annual International Festival was held on April 9 in support of the many cultures represented at Western Carolina University. Several area schools brought their students as a way to assist in the formation of their internationalized education. It was an excellent turnout with fantastic weather! The days events included the Gamelan, World Music Hour, presentations on Cultural Open Source, a May Pole Dance, bagpipes, Mooris &

Garland Dancers, and local bands performed as well. Booths were set up all around the UC Lawn with cultural items and information, and food from around the world was served. ♦

# WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY *international news*

## WCU FACULTY VISIT PARTNER IN NARUTO, JAPAN

Ken Hunt (CEAP Field Experiences), Jacque Jacobs (Educational Leadership), Janice Holt (CEAP Center for the Support of Beginning Teachers), Chandrika Rogers (English, TESOL Program), and John Schweikart (IPS) recently returned from a 10-day trip to Japan guided by Masafumi Takeda (MFL) and Lois Petrovich-Mwaniki (IPS). Supported by funds from the College of Education and Allied Professions, the Provost Office, and International Programs and Services, the group explored ways that WCU could expand research and exchange possibilities with the Naruto University of Education, one of the six partner institutions that comprise the Japan Global Partnership.

The group landed in Osaka and spent the first four days learning about Japanese culture. Group members visited the city of Osaka, then traveled by train to visit the Peace Monument, A-Bomb Dome, the Flame of Peace and Shukkeien Garden in Hiroshima as well as the famous Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima Island. At the Peace Park, which commemorates the atomic bombing of Hiroshima by the U.S. in August, 1945, and is dedicated to the eradication of nuclear arms throughout the world, the group visited the museum and several memorials in the park. Janice Holt laid approximately 70 paper cranes, folded by 7th graders in Leslie Dougherty's Cullowhee Valley Elementary School class, at the memorial dedicated to the Children who lost their lives in the bombing.

From Hiroshima, the group took several trains to Naruto, Tokushima Prefecture, on Shikoku Island, where they stayed in the Guest House of the Naruto University of Education. The group was greeted by University President Hajime Takahashi, Executive Director Hiroshi Murata, Head of Student Affairs Seiichi Taniguchi, International Student Advisor Noriko Onishi, and ESL Associate Professor Noboru Kaneshige. During the next four days, meetings with various university department heads took place as well as visits to elementary, middle, and special education schools as well as the Teacher Development Center for Tokushima Prefecture. The Naruto University of Education has two attached (laboratory) schools that are staffed by teachers selected by the Board of Education but managed by the university. In addition, there are special education schools for physically and mentally challenged students that were visited by Hunt and Jacobs. Holt was particularly interested in the Teacher Development Center where she hopes to learn more about the



support program for beginning teachers that they sponsor and make connections with educators in Tokushima Prefecture.

As a result of the visit, four activities were identified as realizable in the next year or two:

- (1) The Kyoikudaigaku Fuzoku (attached) Elementary School is particularly looking for TESOL interns to assist in teaching English because by 2011 all Japanese elementary schools must begin teaching English in fifth grade. Dr. Chandrika Rogers has already identified an intern, Vida Kathleen Hillenke, who will assist the current English Teacher at Kyoikudaigaku Fuzoku Elementary School this next academic year. Western has promised to send a TESOL intern for each academic year and hopes to expand this offer to the attached middle school as well;
- (2) Ken Hunt is exploring the possibility of taking a group of elementary education majors to Naruto next May as part of a summer course. The students will observe in the local elementary schools and learn about Japanese culture by visiting local Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines, museums, indigo dye studios and potteries;
- (3) Mr. Takeda will include a visit to Naruto this summer as part of his study abroad course to visit local shrines, temples, museums, potteries, indigo dyeing, and elementary schools; and
- (4) Dr. Petrovich-Mwaniki and Mr. Takeda will work on short-term faculty exchange possibilities between the WCU and Naruto University English Departments.

In addition to visiting Naruto University of Education, John Schweikart and Lois Petrovich-Mwaniki visited colleagues and WCU students at the Osaka University of Education and the Hiroshima University College of Education. These institutions are also members of the Japan Global Partnership and are hosting Matt Willis and Melissa Mills, WCU students, this year. ♦

## STUDY ABROAD FAIR AT WCU

### *a great success!*

On Wednesday, September 26, 2007, WCU hosted its first Study Abroad Fair in the UC Grand Room. Over 30 organizations and study abroad providers participated in this event which brought in around 350 interested students. In addition to music and videos from around the world, this event also brought out WCU's international students who enthusiastically met with interested students to teach them about their home countries along with a number of study abroad returning students who also worked with us to promote our existing partnerships. Highlights included the participation of our own Irish Students from GMIT who brought a wall of green to the room, along with the English contingent from the Portsmouth Business School, and assistant Director of the UNCEP Program, Kristi Parker. Other highlights included participation by our soon-to-be partners, Edgehill University in England and Lorenzo De Medici in Italy, participation by the Asheville Travel Office of the American Automobile Association (AAA), and invaluable volunteer support by the Men of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, who worked tirelessly to bring students in to the fair.

As a result of our success in 2007, plans are already in the works for the 2008 Study Abroad Fair. For the upcoming fair, WCU is working in conjunction with our UNC-system partners, UNC-Asheville and Appalachian State to coordinate the dates of our study abroad fairs in succession from September 17th-19th, 2008. Next year, WCU will hold our 2nd Annual Study Abroad Fair on Thursday, September 18, 2008 in the UC Grand Room, and we fully expect it to be bigger and better than ever. ♦



# director's CORNER



A warm thanks to Provost and Mrs. Kyle Carter for endowing a Study Abroad Fund to sponsor WCU students to study abroad each year! Our students grow academically and personally when they participate in a study

abroad experience. They truly enrich our classrooms when they return. I would like to invite you to consider donating to this fund and others that the office of International Programs and Services is trying to build to assist study abroad students. With the declining dollar, more and more WCU students need a little more support than financial provides to attend universities in the EU and Australia. Your support is needed and would be much appreciated.

The office of International Programs and Services is growing! We are currently searching for two new positions. WCU has received GA approval to add an Intensive English Program and are currently searching for a director of the program. This program should begin admitting its first students in January, 2009. The MA/MAEd/MAT TESOL program students, directed by Dr. Chandrika Rogers in the Department of English, will have the opportunity to complete their internship requirement in the program. In addition, the program will hire addition lecturers as it grows.

We are also searching for an Assistant Director who will be responsible for faculty exchanges, faculty collaboration with our partners, and international faculty visas and orientation. We recently joined the Middelburg Center for Transatlantic Study which will provide faculty the opportunity to teach for 3 ½ weeks in the Netherlands and students the opportunity to study for a whole semester. The courses taught will be ideal for sophomores seeking to fulfill their liberal studies courses overseas. This program is described elsewhere in the Globe. Our partners are searching for faculty to guest lecture for a week or two at their institutions. This is an excellent way for WCU faculty to become acquainted with their international colleagues, discuss collaborative research, and become involved with both faculty and student mobility through grant opportunities. Our international faculty are also great resources for collaborative international research! Get to know our thirty+ international faculty on the WCU campus.

Please stop by our office and learn what we can do for you! ♦

Lois Petrovich-Mwaniki, Director

# 2007-2008 study abroad advisory

## SITE VISITS

2007-2008 was a year of site visits to new and existing partners, and building new directions for international study and research for WCU students and faculty. In August 2007, Josie Bewsey and Kay Moore visited the UNC- system's Winston House in the heart of London, England, as well as the Center for Academic Programs Abroad (CAPA), our partner for student internships in London.

In October, John Schweikart visited **GMIT in Ireland**; **Edgehill University** near Liverpool, England; the **University of Glamorgan** in Pontypridd, Wales; and the **Portsmouth Business School** in England. As a result of this visit to GMIT, we realized a great potential for expanding our joint partnership with Heritage Studies at GMIT and Cherokee Studies, History, and Anthropology/Sociology at WCU. As a result of this,

**Professor Patricia Mulkeen, of the Heritage Studies Program at GMIT**, made a site visit to WCU on February 12-15, to meet with **Dr. Jane Eastman, Director of the Cherokee Studies Program**, **Dr. Roseanna Belt from the Cherokee Center**, and **Dr. Tyler Blethen, Department of History**, as well as WCU students interested in studying abroad in Ireland. We are now planning to send two

students from each institution this fall to take classes in these areas.

Following his visit to Ireland and the U.K., John Schweikart spent the week of Oct. 13-20 participating in the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, which is sponsored each year by the Ministry of Education and NAFSA (International Education Association). He had the opportunity to learn invaluable information about the German education system and visit our UNCEP partners: the **University of Stuttgart**, **Ruprecht Karls University Heidelberg**, and the **University of Karlsruhe**. At the **Pädagogische Hochschule Ludwigsburg**, which is affiliated with the **Ludwigsburg University of Education**, he spoke with **Chancellor Hartmut Melenk**, and **Dr. Peter Dines, Director of International Affairs**. As a result of this meeting, Chancellor Melenk and Dr. Dines visited WCU on March 7, 2008, to explore student teaching opportunities, TESOL internships, and faculty exchanges between our College of Education and Ludwigsburg.

From February 26th through March 8th, a WCU delegation comprising IPS Director, **Lois Petrovich Mwaniki**; Study Abroad Advisor, **John Schweikart**; Educational Leadership Professor, **Jacque Jacobs**; Director of Educational Field Experiences, **Ken Hunt**; Program Director for the MA/MAT TESOL Program, **Chandrika Rogers**; Director of Center for New Teacher Support, **Janice Holt**; and Asian Studies Coordinator, **Masafumi Takeda** visited our Japan Consortium partners at Hiroshima University, Osaka Kyioku University, and the Naruto College of Education in Western Honshu and on Shikoku Island, Japan. In addition to meeting with our counterparts as well as faculty and administrators at each institution, Dr. Petrovich-Mwaniki and John also visited WCU students **Melissa Mills** and **Matt Williams**, who are studying in Osaka and Hiroshima, respectively. Two more WCU students will study during the 2008-2009 academic year with the consortium: **Liz Kilgore** at Osaka and our first graduate student, **Katie Hilleke**, at the Naruto College of Education. In addition, two other WCU students have applied to study at Toyo and Kansai Gaidai Universities in Japan through our ISEP Exchange for Fall 2008. This clearly demonstrates the growing interest in Japanese language and culture at WCU and WCU's leading role in sending students to Japan as a part of this consortium with ECU and UNC-W.

Site Visits will continue this Spring when John Schweikart travels to **Finland** from May 1-10, 2008 as one of four study abroad representatives selected from the UNC-system. The purpose of this trip is to learn more about our Finnish partners to devise a way to send more UNC-system students to Finland under the auspices of the UNCEP exchange program. International Programs is also particularly interested in this delegation because of the great interest and enthusiasm shown by Western Carolina's **Dean of The Honor's College, Brian Railsback**, in working with IPS to explore the potential for sophomore Honors students to study liberal arts for one semester in Finland and other countries as an integral part of their educational experience with WCU.

## GROWING TRENDS IN STUDY ABROAD

Word about Study Abroad is spreading at WCU. In **Spring 2008, there was a 44% increase**, (or a jump from 18 to 26 students) in the number of students studying abroad over Spring 2007. There has also been a significant shift in the destinations students are choosing to study abroad. Specifically, last Spring 8 of 18 WCU study abroad students studied in Australia, while presently only 5 of 26 study abroad students are studying in Australia (**Morgan Childers, Stephanie Crosby, Catherine Crowe, Kane Lopinski, and Rachel Jellis**). Some of this may be explained by the perception that it is now more difficult for WCU students to get



placements in Australia, when ironically, this is very far from the truth. The UNCEP Australia exchange with New South Wales limits our applicants to three students per semester, but WCU students can still apply for our study abroad programs with AustraLearn which has over 25 university Australian partners as well as great placements in New Zealand and Fiji. Although AustraLearn's programs are Direct Enrollments, they are still very economical for out-of-state students at WCU and, the U.S. dollar is holding its own better against the Australian dollar than the Euro, ensuring an affordable cost of living.

There is a significant increase in students studying in the U.K. This Spring five students from the College of Business are studying at the Portsmouth Business School, England (**Casey Bogarad, Katherine Byrd, Alexandra Valier, Robert Greeson, and Myranda Nash**), and three students are completing a year at the University of Glamorgan in Wales (**Stephen Dickson, Matthew Maslowski, and Christopher Merrill**). In addition, Ireland is rapidly becoming more popular. Two Outdoor Education students are finishing a year at the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT), Castlebar Campus (**Phillip Patton and B.J. Schnepf**), and at least six students from the College of Business, Construction Management, and the College of Arts & Sciences are planning to attend GMIT in Galway, Ireland, this Fall.

Increases in study abroad students also include students currently studying in Mexico: **Latoya Blackwell** and **Jordan Youmans**; in Japan: **Melissa Mills** and **Matt Willis**; in Spain: **Marysa Burchett** and **Catherine Gunn**; in Costa Rica: **JennieV. Dowdle**; in France: **Carson Wilkie**; and in Italy: **Melissa Palmer**.

Looking forward to the Summer and Fall of 2008, there is increasing interest in Latin America. WCU students from many different academic areas are serious about studying Spanish and Hispanic Culture in countries like **Mexico** and **Costa Rica**, as well as volunteering in countries like **Nicaragua** and other parts of Central America. Another trend is an increasing interest in **Italy**. International Programs will soon sign an agreement with **Lorenzo De Medici** which has summer, semester, and year-long programs designed for U.S. students in **Florence, Rome, and Tuscania**, to learn about Italian History, Culture, Art, Cuisine, and of course, the Italian Language.



## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FAIR

Josie Bewsey had the opportunity to promote the University of North Carolina Exchange Program during the Thirteenth International Programs Fair sponsored by Tecnologico de Monterrey of Mexico. The Instituto Tecnologico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) includes 33 campuses throughout the country of Mexico. ITESM sponsors this fair every year to promote and highlight different universities throughout Mexico. This year the fair was held February 18th through March 1st.

The first stop on the Programs Fair was Campus Monterrey, which is the largest campus of ITESM, with a population of over 17,000 students. The fair at Monterrey was held on Feb. 20 and 21. On the 22nd, Josie Bewsey was given a familiarization tour of the campus including visits to the dormitories and an information session concerning the ITESM System. The Fair's next stop was at the Guadalajara Campus (enrollment of 5,900 students), located in Mexico's second largest city. From Guadalajara Josie Bewsey traveled to the Queretaro Campus, located in the heart of Mexico with a student population of 3,000 full-time students. After leaving Queretaro, her tour proceeded on to Estado de Mexico Campus located in the Greater Mexico City area, with a student population of 7,200. The last stop of the International Fair was the Cuernavaca Campus with an enrollment of 1,800 students. This is brand new location for this campus, only being in its present location since January 2008.

Throughout the two week International Fair, Bewsey had the opportunity to meet and greet potential study abroad students throughout the country of Mexico and tell them more about the many opportunities waiting for them not only in the United States and North Carolina, but more specifically Western North Carolina. ♦

# beth's corner



## TRIP TO ASIA

This October I spent 3 weeks in Asia on a recruiting tour with AIEF. I visited Korea, Japan, and Taiwan with colleague Jennifer Fernandez-Villa from UNC-W. It was an amazing experience made even more unforgettable with visits to our partner institutions in those countries. I spent much of my time in Korea recruiting and sightseeing in Seoul, but I also had the opportunity to spend several days with our sister school, Hannam University. It was amazing! Being on Hannam's campus felt eerily similar to WCU's campus. Everyone was incredibly friendly, and the programs offered at HU are the same programs we offer here at WCU! If only I could re-live my study abroad experience; I would have chosen Hannam! I'm itching for a chance to go back and visit again.

## SPRING BREAK 2008 - BAHAMAS

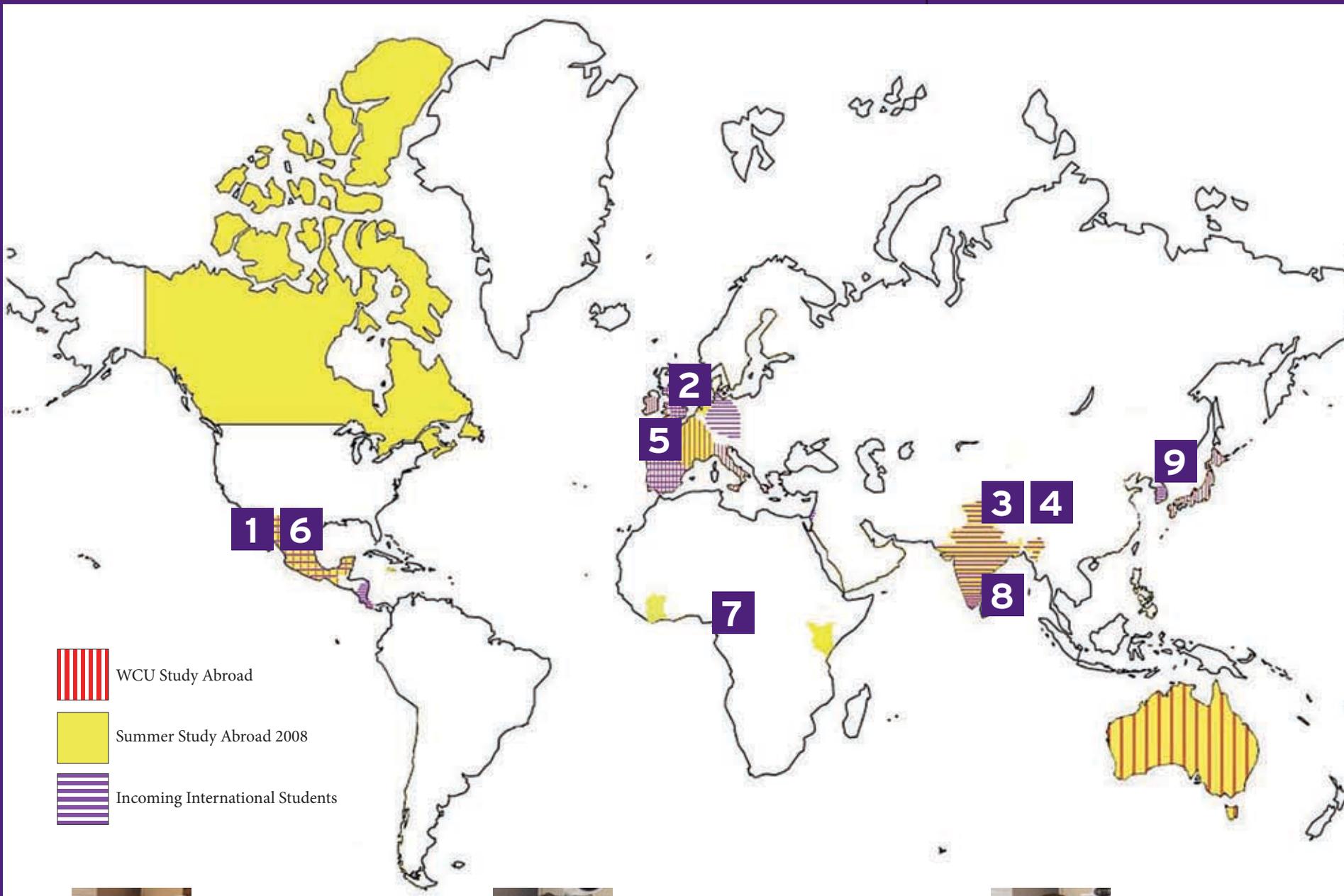
14 members of the WCU international community went on spring break together this year. Led by International Student Advisor, Beth Walden, they traveled to Savannah for a little southern history lesson, then on to Cape Canaveral where they boarded Royal Caribbean's Sovereign of the Seas cruise ship destined for the Bahamas. The week was filled with lots of sun, the beautiful blue ocean, snorkeling, fabulous food, great discussions, and fellowship.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: 03/12/08



This year's International Women's Day was a huge hit! The committee (two graduate students and me) took it upon ourselves to find out what makes the women of WCU world citizens. We took photos of 58 women from all over the campus (students, faculty,

staff, administrators) and then had them write on their photos. They wrote things about who they are, what they like to do, and their ancestry. Then we put the exhibition up in the UC with the hopes of having a few people stop by and start to think critically about their own international lives. The exhibition showed how even if we don't think we're "international", we really are. Over 100 WCU community members came out to the exhibit and all of them commented on the power of the pictures as well as the words. ♦



**1** LIDICI ARAGON  
Undergraduate student from Mexico, studying Marketing.



**2** FELIX SILJAEW  
Graduate student from Germany studying Business Administration.



**3** JANUKA BUDHATHOKI-UPRETY  
Graduate student from Nepal, studying Chemistry.



**4** RAJENDRA UPRETY  
Graduate student from Nepal, studying Chemistry.



**5** ARTHUR DUVERNOY  
Undergraduate student from France, studying Sport Management.



**6** ANAÏDH MERCADO  
Undergraduate student from Mexico, studying Marketing.



**7** PATERNE FONKAM  
Undergraduate student from Cameroon, studying Finance.



**8** LAKSHMI LAKSHMINARASINHA  
Graduate student from India, studying Business Administration.



**9** YOUNG EUN SONG  
Undergraduate student from South Korea, studying English.

*Students above are only a few of the 72 international students currently at WCU and the 25 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:



**Marylou Matoush (ELMG)** is working on a project this summer in China titled, "Crosscultural Connections Via Student Authored Digital Stories" with colleague Nancy Shelton, University of Maryland. The main purpose of the research is to explore the potential

of student authored digital stories as a means of engendering cross-cultural communication and written language development.

5th to 12th grade students in the People's Republic of China will attend "Expressive Language Camps" conducted by US teachers. A writer's workshop approach to teaching writing stressing oral and written language development will be used to help students craft pieces of writing that explore familiar aspects of their lives and interests. The crafted pieces will be subsequently be revised electronically in cooperation with students in the US who will be crafting similar pieces. Pieces from both groups will be published as digital stories and/or YouTube-like short movies to be shared among English language learners in China and agemates in the US.



**Cheryl Waters-Tormey (Geosciences & Natural Resource Mgt)**, working with Basil Tikoff and Laurel Goodwin (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Kim Wepasnick (WCU undergraduate student) is completing research on Plate Tectonics and the

Tectonic History of Australia, a project she began with NSF funding while a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The outcomes of this research could lead either to determining that the places faults form partly depend on the types of rocks that make up the deep parts of tectonic plates or that this field work revises part of the tectonic history of central Australia. To date, the research has resulted in the following publications:

Waters-Tormey and Tikoff (2007): Characteristics of a kilometer-scale high strain zone in the lower continental crust: Mt. Hay block, central Australia (Journal of Structural Geology).

Waters-Tormey, Goodwin, Tikoff, Staffier, Kelso (in press): A granulite facies normal shear zone exposed in the Arunta Inlier of central Australia: Implications for deep crustal deformation during oblique divergence (Geological Society of America Special Publication).

Wepasnick (2007), Shape-preferred orientation strain data from granulites in a lower crustal fault zone: Mt. Hay block, central Australia: Geology major senior research project resulting from field work in 2006.

Waters-Tormey and Wepasnick (2007), Strain Marker Shape Preferred Orientation across a Strain Gradient in a Granulite Facies Normal Shear Zone, Mt. Hay Block, Central Australia. Presentation accepted for the national Geological Society of America meeting in October.



**Erin Tapley (School of Art and Design)** is currently working on three projects concerning China, Japan and Morocco, based on her work at the East West Center Institute, funding from the NEH, and her research in Japan, China and Morocco. She is working on

integrating Asian Studies in the art curriculum in order to assist in creating an Asian Studies Minor at WCU. Additionally, she is writing about Berber and Japanese environmental aesthetics and will present her findings at conferences as well as submit articles this fall.

**Pavel Wlosek (Music)** will be lecturing and presenting at the annual International Summer Jazz Camp in Prague, Czech Republic from May 20 to August 8, 2008. In addition, he will lead a session on How to Practice Jazz Improvisation at the Conservatory of Jaroslav Jezek and VOS, Prague, Czech Republic. While in Prague, Dr. Wlosek will be working with Professor Peter Weniger, Director of JAZZ-Institute Berlin, Germany, and Dr. Karel Vraný, Director of Conservatory of Jaroslav Jezek and VOS in Prague, to explore student and faculty exchanges and the exchange of bulletins and information packages.



**Kadence Otto (Asst. Professor/Director of UG Sport Management Program)** and Dr. Annie Clement (St. Leo University, FL) recently published an article titled, "Who is the headfirst plaintiff? Critical findings from court decisions for aquatic specialists" in

The International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education, 2007(1), 6-17. The findings from this research was also presented at the National Swimming Pool Foundation Conference in Cincinnati, OH from Oct. 2-4, 2007. They found that persons who sued and went to a court of appeals following a serious injury from a headfirst entry into water often sustained the injury in an environment that had no supervision, and was not intended as a place for the execution of a headfirst entry. Minors were more likely to win in court (35%) than were adults (31%). Females had more success in a court of law (40%) than did males (30.5%). The ratio of cases filed by a plaintiff whose injury was either paraplegia/quadruplegia or severe verses death (18:1) may suggest that people are suing to fund the cost of injuries, rehabilitation, and lost wages. ◆



## DELEGATION FROM CHONGQING TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS UNIVERSITY VISITS WESTERN

From March 9-11, 2008, Western Carolina University hosted a delegation from Chongqing Technology and Business University. The delegates included Dr. David Yunchao Chen, Vice-President; Zhenghong Huang, Dean of School of Computer Science and Information Engineering; Chengyong Yuan, Director of Development and Planning Office; and Xiaolin Zuo, Director of the Second College English Teaching and Researching Section. The purpose of their trip was to explore common academic and research areas in order to establish an exchange relationship for students and faculty. Mr. Roy Douthitt, former public school principal in Jackson County, made the initial contact with CTBU while living and working at an international school in Chongqing.

Chongqing is one of four provincial-level municipalities in China with a population of 31,442,300. It is located in western China and surrounded by mountains. Two rivers cut through the central part of the city, making it one of China's few inland ports. CTBU, with 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students, is a residential comprehensive university. There are many common programs between Western and CTBU that make the relationship a strong one for both universities.

Western has been teaching Chinese this year with an instructor from Fudan University, a UNC System-wide partner. Increasingly, there is interest from faculty and students to learn more about China. We sent our first student to China this year on a one-year exchange. Dr. Steve Henson, Associate Dean of the College of Business



accompanied the first trip in summer, 2007, as part of the UNC System-wide China Program.

At the moment, this will be a standard exchange of students, faculty, and staff. There is also the possibility of joint faculty and student research. Within the agreement we can send students for summer language and culture study, as well as semester and year-long study. We may also utilize CTBU's resources in Chinese language study to provide Western with a Chinese instructor each year as we grow our Chinese language program.

The delegation visited Western's Kimmel School of Construction Management and Technology, College of Business and College of Arts and Sciences. Western will return the visit in May when a delegation comprised of Provost Kyle Carter, Dean Wendy Ford (Arts and Sciences), Dean Robert McMahan (Kimmel School), Dean Ron Johnson (Business), Dan Ostergaard (Institute for the Economy and the Future), Dr. Lois Petrovich-Mwaniki (International Programs and Services), and Dr. James Zhang (Kimmel School) visits CTBU and other sites in China. ◆

## THE MAASTRICHT (MIDDELBURG) PROGRAM

Western is now a member of the Maastricht Center for Transatlantic Studies (MCTS). Last fall, IPS Director Lois Petrovich-Mwaniki and Provost Kyle Carter attended the board meeting of the MCTS in Maastricht, Netherlands. This Center was conceived in 1995 by twelve U.S., Mexico and European institutions to provide a unique educational experience based on the interactive relationship between the peoples and cultures on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Each semester is broken into four blocks of 3½ weeks. Students select one intensive course or module from the 3-4 that are offered each block. Courses must have a comparative, trans-Atlantic approach and are typically from the social sciences, humanities, fine arts and business. Participating institutions are located in the U.S., New Zealand, Spain, UK, Hungary, Sweden and Australia.

Students study for one or two semesters and faculty can teach for one or more of the 3½ week terms. Students pay a program fee that covers tuition, room and meals. Faculty receive free housing and meals. For participating faculty, WCU will pay the cost of travel to and from the Center. Both students and faculty have the opportunity to travel on the weekends during each block.

Although the program has been housed in Maastricht since its inception, it will move to its new home in Middelburg, Netherlands, this summer. WCU faculty who are interested in participating in this program should speak with their department chair and colleagues to decide how to cover their courses while in Middelburg and contact Lois Petrovich-Mwaniki for application materials, orientation, and travel information. Information for teaching during spring 2009 is now available. ◆

# WESTERN STUDENTS *around the globe*

## I NEVER KNEW WESTERN WOULD TAKE ME SO FAR by JennieV. Dowdle

As a Western North Carolina native, WCU was a comfortable and familiar college choice for me. The Honors College, personal attention, and incredible location initially drew me to the school. Various courses, student organizations, and professors at Western helped

cultivate my knowledge of global issues and the world around me, but I knew I wanted more. I had always dreamt of traveling the world and seeing Europe, the Americas, and even Africa, but didn't know those dreams would ever become a reality. With the help of encouragement and support from the Faculty and

Staff and scholarship funding I have had the opportunity to spend my senior year abroad. Upon returning from two semester long study abroad programs, I can attest to the profound impact these very different programs have had on my life. I see the world around me through different eyes.

I first embarked on an unforgettable journey to Ghana in the fall of 2007 where I would study at the University of Ghana. I felt ready to take on Ghana as a personal challenge; one that in turn was an incredible opportunity for growth. I left all of the familiarities of Appalachia, my friends and family, culture, and daily life. There I was introduced to a different culture, market system, education system, and general way of life. I found a life of simplicity being uprooted by the

complexities of modernization. I learned to love the time without modern amenities such as Internet, electricity, and running water. However, these moments of basic living clashed with the development taking place.

I returned home for two weeks before setting off on my next adventure. My studies took me to the heart of Central America where I found a culture more comparable to my life in the United States than life in Ghana. I traveled to Costa Rica on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship where I found it very easy to adapt to the environment, home life, and academic structure. The language barrier was slightly challenging initially, but I was soon able to communicate fluidly. I felt somewhat more in shock from leaving Ghana behind than I was from adapting to life in Costa Rica. My host community there was far more developed than my hometown. The ease of living in Costa Rica allowed me to devote more time to community engagement and service, such as a tree-planting project with the Costa Rican Department of Energy and the Environment.

Now I have returned to Western North Carolina with a fresh set of eyes. I have a new found appreciation for my home and my culture. I had the opportunity to share my culture with others while abroad and now, I am able to share my knowledge of language and culture gained abroad at home. My travels, challenging experiences, and exposure to foreign cultures have given me a greater sense of independence, and helped me to recognize my role as a global citizen. ♦

## STUDYING ABROAD IN AUSTRALIA by Rachel Jellis

I wanted to send out a message and let everyone know how I was doing. I am studying abroad in Australia this semester. I absolutely love it here and am having an amazing time! The weather here is so warm and it is beautiful living somewhere that has both the mountains and the beach.

I am studying at the University of Wollongong, which is about an hour south of Sydney. I am taking four classes.

The style of teaching is completely different

here, and it has taken some time to get used to college here. Each class has a one or two hour lecture every week. Each class also has an hour or two hour tutorial every week. The lectures consist of about 100-200 students. The tutorials are small classes where the students can ask questions regarding the previous lecture. The assignments are also different here. I do not have little assignments or "busy work" like in the states. I have a major essay, presentation, and final essay for each class. Those are the only grades I receive.

I really like it because I do not have to spend hours doing little assignments.

Outside of school, I am having so much fun! I just went on a two week Spring break trip from Brisbane to Cairns with an extreme tour group. I flew to Brisbane and then traveled with the group up north. I went whitewater rafting, to the Australian Zoo (Steve Irwin's Zoo), petted kangaroos, held a koala, went bungy jumping, sailing in the Whitsunday Islands, visited the Great Barrier Reef and snorkeled with the beautiful fish, and visited the rainforest. I had the most amazing time! Now that I am back at school, in my spare time I go to the beach and hang out with my Australian friends. I will be doing some more traveling in a few weeks.

Studying abroad has been the most amazing thing I have ever done. I have learned so much about who I am and what I want to do in life. I really miss my family and friends heaps; however, there is so much to do here that I am staying really busy. I have fallen in love with Australia. ♦

# WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY *phi beta delta*

On February 20, Dr. Nyaga Mwaniki, WCU Associate Professor of Anthropology, led a Phi Beta Delta brown bag luncheon to discuss problems resulting from post-election violence in Kenya. He provided some historical background of the problems and possible solutions that are currently under discussion.

During the initial weeks of 2008, political and social problems in Kenya had been televised and printed in



various newspapers due to the political violence that erupted following the 2007 December elections.

The results of the election had declared President Mwai Kibaki as the winner, but the opposition, led by Raila Oginga, accused the president of rigging the elections. The ensuing violence left 1200 people dead and 300,000 displaced from their homes. According to Dr. Mwaniki, the problems that have led to violence have also been mounting since Kenya's independence in 1963. These problems can be summarized as political, economic, and development marginalization of certain ethnic groups and regions to the advantage of one particular ethnic group.

Among the most important solutions being discussed include: (1) formation of grand coalition government (which has already been formed), (2) the two major political parties share power equally, and

(3) the equitable distribution of resources among all ethnic groups.



Ikebana is the traditional Japanese way of arranging flowers. In October of 2007, I did a demonstration of ikebana at WCU for students and faculty members.

I demonstrated Japanese design principles, choosing flowers and branches according to the beginning of the autumn season, creating asymmetrical compositions, using plants of different heights to represent "father," "mother" and "sister" elements. In ikebana, not only flowers are arranged beautifully—leaves are also chosen following a Buddhist way to represent heaven, earth and people. After my demonstration, a student tried ikebana with a pine bough and iris leaves.

My activities as the Japanese Outreach coordinator are supported by the Japan Foundation and Laurasian Institute. I work to promote a better understanding of Japanese culture in the Western Carolina area. In 2007, I visited approximately 30 schools and organizations to demonstrate traditional Japanese arts such as calligraphy, origami, tea ceremony and ikebana, and I found that many people were very interested in Japanese culture. I would like to continue my work with more opportunities to intrude Americans to my culture and to talk with them about it. ♦

## NEWLY INDUCTED PRESIDENT VISITS WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

On April 7, 2008, Dr. Hyungtae Kim, President of Hannam University, Daejeon, Korea, visited Dr. John Bardo, WCU Chancellor, and Provost Kyle Carter to become acquainted with their partner institution, Western Carolina University. Traveling with Dr. Kim was Dr. Dal Lee, Head Chaplain, and Dr. Seungho Lee, Dean of Global Relations. The exchange agreement with Hannam was signed in 2006 and since then two Hannam students, Young Eun Song and June-Ho Choi, studied and visiting scholar, Dr. Choi, conducted research at WCU for the year. The Global Linton College at Hannam University is the only college in Korea that teaches ALL subjects in English. This summer, Amanda Shirk, will study Korean culture and language at Hannam, fulfilling liberal studies requirements. We are seeking students to study for the semester or year. ♦



UPCOMING

# international events

(FALL 2008)

## AUGUST

August 15: ISEP Exchange Application Deadline.

## 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

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

September 18: 2nd Annual Study Abroad Fair. UC Grand Room, 10 am-3 pm.

September 21: UNCEP and ISEP Direct and unfilled Exchange Application Deadline for Spring 2008 semester.

## OCTOBER

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

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

## NOVEMBER

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

November 8: Mandatory Study Abroad Orientation. UNCEP and ISEP Exchanges—Held at UNC-Greensboro

November 14: Phi Beta Delta Induction Dinner. UC Grandroom, 6-8 pm

November 14: "Glo-ball." UC Grandroom, 8-11 pm.

November 17 - November 21  
International Education Week.  
Various locations on WCU campus / classrooms.

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

## DECEMBER

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

## SNAPSHOTS from the international festival



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