

# the GLOBE

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES | FALL 2011

Western  
Carolina  
UNIVERSITY



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International Programs and Services  
109 Cordelia Camp | Cullowhee, NC 28723

## International Students Making a Difference on WCU Campus

At the beginning of every fall or spring semester the Office of International Programs and Services (IPS) welcomes students from around the world to WCU. While some students come via exchange partners to attend for one or two semesters, others plan to stay much longer to pursue a degree at both graduate and undergraduate level. Ultimately, the arrival of all these students to the WCU campus marks the end of a tedious, time-consuming application and admissions process. However, it also marks the beginning of an even longer process of adjustment to a new environment here in Western North Carolina (WNC).

To assist these students with their transition to the mores in Cullowhee and the U.S., IPS holds a five-day mandatory student orientation the week prior to the beginning of classes. During this week, current WCU student-volunteers help students to settle into residence halls, lead campus tours, and inform them about other resources that can benefit these new-comers with varied cultural adjustments. While it may vary per student, feeling at ease in Cullowhee comes as expected.

Once the students have settled in, and the semester starts, they become active in many programs across campus, either academically, socially, or both, contributing their particular knowledge and skills.

For example, Fern Lulham, originally on exchange from the University at Glamorgan, Wales, U.K., enjoyed her time at WCU so much, she decided to earn a degree in Communication. Nearly two years since her arrival to Cullowhee, Fern has become a familiar name on the WWCU radio station. She rocks the WCU airwaves most mornings with a beautiful British accent.

Another example is Michelle O'Gorman (raft guide in photo above), an Outdoor and Physical Education, Health and Psychology student on exchange from LaTrobe University in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. Michelle has become very active with Base Camp Cullowhee and her love for the outdoors has influenced other international and local students to enjoy

*Continued on page 20*

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Welcome back to an exciting year, internationally speaking. More and more of

our WCU students are studying overseas during the semester and year. Our faculty-led programs are growing each year as well. We have more students interested in our intensive English program this year, which will ensure an increase in the number of degree-seeking students for this spring and the next academic year.

IPS would like to work with WCU departments in internationalizing the curriculum. Currently we are working with Jane Nichols in interior design to identify three to five universities with similar

curricular offerings for her students to attend. Jack Sholder in theater production is doing the same. Niall Michelsen has more than 50 international studies majors and is advising them to study abroad at one of our 268 partner institutions. Niall will be visiting the University of Glamorgan in Wales and the University of Portsmouth in England this October to become better acquainted with our longstanding partners.

The Department of Anthropology and Sociology is searching for three to five partners for its students. Tony Hickey will visit the University of College Cork in Ireland and the University of Glamorgan in Wales to explore curricular offerings for his department. Steve Ha just returned from a visit to the Copenhagen Business School to talk to our partners about undergraduate

business and MBA program students studying there for a semester.

As student interest in study abroad opportunities rises, our study abroad adviser is emailing academic advisers about advisee visits to International Programs and Services. In this way, we all can assist in the advising process for this important event in our students' lives. Thanks for your continued support of International Programs and Services! Call our office if you would like to discuss ideas of internationalization for your program or department.

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

## New Agreements

This year, WCU signed new exchange agreements with LaTrobe University, Swinburne University of Technology, the University of Tasmania and Sunshine Coast University in Australia. More than half of the students studying in any one semester choose to study in Australia, and we are happy to provide an increase in the number of universities available for study abroad in Australia.

In addition, WCU students can start exchanging with students at the Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, beginning Jan. 1. We are currently recruiting for this exchange in all majors available. This university unfortunately does not have colleges of the fine and performing arts or education, but students in other majors are welcome to apply. Finally, we signed an agreement with Oberlin University near Tokyo, Japan, and are working on another agreement with Chukyo University, with campuses in Nagoya and Tokyo, Japan. Students with little Japanese will be able to learn Japanese and take other courses in English for a semester or a year.

## Visits by Chukyo University and the University of Portsmouth

On Oct. 26-27, Akihiro Wakao, general manager of the International Center at Chukyo University, Nagoya, Japan, visited WCU to discuss our upcoming bilateral exchange agreement. In 2009-10, two WCU students studied at Chukyo University on the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP): Brock Martin (business) for one semester and Lauren Levine (anthropology) for one year. In return, Naomi Matsumoto, from Chukyo University, studied at WCU for the year. Chukyo University offers a number of courses in English for a variety of majors, and our students have been very well received there.

At the end of November, Dr. Ann Matear of the School of Languages and Area Studies (SLAS) at the University of Portsmouth, England, will visit WCU for a few days. She is meeting with professors in the College of Arts and Sciences to discuss curriculum commonalities between the two universities. WCU has had an exchange agreement for nine years with the University of Portsmouth Business School. The addition of humanities, education and criminal justice courses will greatly expand the number of students both universities can exchange in the future. Currently, WCU has two Portsmouth students from SLAS who are studying for the semester: Anne Elphick and Emily Bolton.



## UCIP News

The North Carolina University Council on International Programs has been working diligently this year on two major projects. The first concerns the recruitment of international students to the North Carolina University system. Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa, associate vice chancellor of the Office of International Education and Development at Appalachian State University, is leading a statewide committee on the design of and development of a "Study North Carolina" website to include all UNC system institutions. The Web developer is O3 Strategies Inc., located in Raleigh, N.C. The purpose of the site is to market international study in North Carolina and to leverage resources and name recognition to first increase the international enrollment at each of the UNC constituent institutions and then at all higher education institutions in the state. The website will be hosted at the UNC general administration server for a period of one year, from Oct. 1, 2011, to Sept. 30, 2012. Each UNC constituent

institution will be asked to pay a one-time membership fee for Study North Carolina in the amount of \$200 to yield \$3,200. This membership fee will be for the initial first year of implementation of the Study North Carolina website. A number of states already have similar websites and have been very successful in recruiting international students to their universities colleges, and community colleges.

A second initiative is internationalizing teacher education in the state of North Carolina. The major goals are to: (a) encourage information-gathering and sharing among stakeholders, (b) create stronger connections and promote collaborations between Colleges of Education, UCIP members and community partners on internationalization efforts, and (c) foster stronger relationships within universities between deans, faculty and other staff in the colleges of education and their UCIP representative(s). On Nov. 18,

2010, the planning committee held a forum at the Friday Institute in Raleigh, N.C. As a result of the discussion and feedback, the Internationalizing Teacher Education Committee is planning a second forum to be held on Friday, Nov. 4, at UNC-Charlotte. This forum will concentrate on hands-on approaches to internationalizing teacher education programs with an emphasis on collaboration across the state. All people in the UNC colleges/schools of education and international offices are invited to participate. I am heading the committee for this forum with assistance from Dr. Alisa Chapman (associate vice president for academic affairs and university-school programs at UNC general administration), Bonnie Derr (international programs coordinator in academic affairs at UNC general administration), several UNC college/schools of education deans and associate deans, education program chairs, and international program directors.

## Fiona Reid's Visit

Recently, Dr. Fiona Reid, deputy head of humanities from our partner, the University of Glamorgan, Wales, visited WCU from Sept. 18-22. She attended WCU's fifth annual Study Abroad Fair to advertise the programs at her university and spoke with department heads in history, English and political science about the upcoming 2012 summer course being offered to WCU students at the University of Glamorgan. While visiting our campus, Dr. Reid toured FAPAC, the Mountain Heritage Center and the Campus Recreation Center, as well as Water Rock Knob. She presented her research on shell shock to Dr. Leo Bobadilla's psychology students and to the history department colloquium. Because there is a great emphasis in Wales on Welsh language acquisition, Dr. Hartwell Francis accompanied Dr. Reid to the Qualla Boundary to visit Kituwah, the Cherokee Immersion School and the new Cherokee public school complex. In addition to meeting with WCU professors, Dr. Reid had dinner with two University of Glamorgan students who are studying at WCU for this academic year in, Carrie Ann Taylor in social



While in Cullowhee, Glamorgan professor Fiona Reid (right) visits with (from left) Carrie Anne Taylor and Corinna Hedderick, students from her home university who are on exchange at WCU.

work and Corinna Hedderick in performance media. Dr. Niall Michelsen, current associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, will be visiting the College of Humanities at

the University of Glamorgan in October to solidify the upcoming summer program for the WCU students and faculty.



## Rep from German Partner Visits WCU

Dr. Elisabeth Rathgeb-Schnierer, professor of mathematics at the Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten, Germany, visited WCU in June 2011 seeking partnerships for her math research. Her jaunt to Cullowhee presented her with the opportunity to meet the International Programs and Services staff, as well as some faculty from the WCU departments of math and elementary/middle grades education and the College of Education. Rathgeb-Schnierer has taught at the Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten since 2006 and is the first delegate from this Hochschule to visit Cullowhee since the endorsement and initiation of a memorandum of understanding with WCU in March 2009, whereby both institutions can exchange faculty and students. As part of her visit, Rathgeb-Schnierer enjoyed an excursion to neighboring Bryson City and Cherokee.



## Faculty Members Continue to Get Out and About

Once again I offer my heartfelt thanks to all of our Western Carolina colleagues who taught faculty-led courses overseas during the 2010-11 academic year. Between fall break 2010 and the end of summer session 2011, nearly 200 WCU and visiting students were able to study Western Carolina courses and gain practical professional experience overseas. I am particularly pleased with the diversity of classes that we were able to offer this year and the variety of locations where our groups traveled. Students in communication sciences and disorders, psychology, social work, hospitality and tourism, anthropology, history, sociology, English, business, nursing, athletic training, German, Spanish, interior design and criminal justice were all able to study overseas. I am also delighted with the variety of destinations we were able to make available for our students. As you might expect, we had a number of courses that were based in Central and Western Europe – the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, the Czech Republic, Spain, the Netherlands, Greece and Belgium. But we also were able to offer courses again this past year in such exotic destinations as Japan and Kenya as well. I would like to highlight here one of the courses that was offered during each of the major travel periods during the last year.

Five outstanding communication sciences and disorders graduate students working with Dr. David Shapiro had an exceptional opportunity to gain clinical experience at the LOGO speech clinic in Brno, Czech Republic. The group traveled to Brno and Prague during fall break in order to interact with colleagues and clients in the clinic and to participate in an international conference on stuttering. Several articles and additional academic presentations by group members, including a presentation by all five of the students at the Graduate Research Symposium this past March, have resulted from their participation in Dr. Shapiro's travel course.

For the seventh consecutive year, Dr. Sharon Metcalfe and Bonnie Garner accompanied nursing students to Napier University in Edinburgh over spring break to meet with some of the top leaders in the health field in Scotland. Dr. Metcalfe has worked tirelessly to expand international opportunities for our nursing students, and we were pleased that she was able to welcome a delegation



from Napier to our campus this June. I hope that you will join me in applauding her efforts to expand international opportunities for our faculty and students with this wonderful institution.

While there are certainly a number of exceptional summer session courses which I could detail here, one in particular stands out for the potentially once-in-a-lifetime opportunity it offered to its students. Dr. Alvin Malesky offered a course examining the psychological dimensions of hate which traveled to Germany and Poland. Through a twist of fate, the group had the opportunity to travel with a Holocaust survivor as they toured such sites of historical significance as the Dachau, Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps in Munich, Germany, and Oswiecim, Poland. The photos provided here are courtesy of Dr. Malesky.

I hope we can not only offer the same or similar types of courses in the upcoming year but that we can continue to expand

our course offerings and our variety of destinations for the 2011-12 academic year. We are exceptionally excited about a trip currently being planned for fall break 2011 that will allow WCU Spanish students to experience Cuban culture while visiting Havana. And a number of departments on campus are working together to plan travel courses that will work to achieve the goals of the Poverty Project, including a multidisciplinary trip currently being planned to Jamaica over spring break 2012.

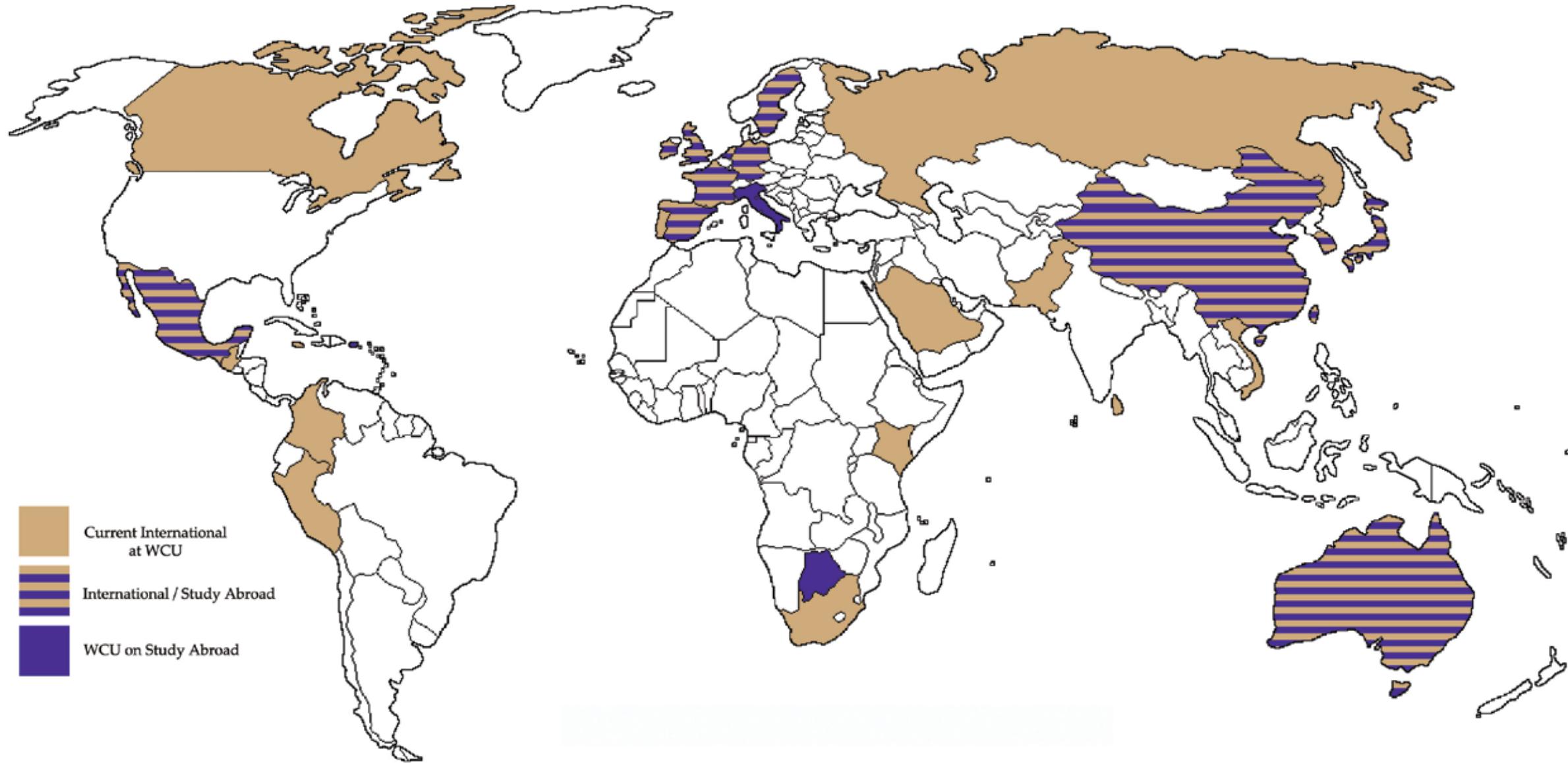
Please share with me your ideas on where you would like to be in the upcoming year and the course(s) you would be interested in teaching. You can reach me at 828.227.7739, by email at cbryant@wcu.edu, or in 109-H Camp Bldg.

**Claudia Bryant**  
Assistant director, International  
Programs and Services

## Fair Educates Masses about Study Abroad



On Tuesday, Sept. 20, International Programs and Services held its fifth annual Study Abroad Fair at WCU. Study abroad representatives from various organizations, universities, etc., offered information for more than 300 international study abroad programs, namely WCU faculty-led programs and summer, semester and yearlong study abroad and international internship programs. Information also was available about financial aid, grants, and study abroad scholarships. Approximately 425 visitors attended the fair!



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 .....	64

#### 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 .....	35
IEP participants .....	25



**MARISSA DUNCAN**  
In France, Junior, English education



**CATI BRANTON**  
In South Korea, Junior, communication



**ALI ALNAKHI**  
From Saudi Arabia, Freshman, emergency medical care



**CARLYNNE TAYLOR**  
In China, Senior, psychology/business law



**HONGDA SHEN**  
From China, Graduate student, technology



**YOUSSEF ALAMRI**  
From Saudi Arabia, Freshman, emergency medical care

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# INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM

## Meet the IEP Faculty and Staff

### Ashlea Allen Green, MA Linguistics, TESL/TEFL

Green was the first instructor hired for the new IEP in fall 2010. She teaches reading.



"As a new teacher in WCU's Intensive English Program, the past year was, as my students like to say, 'amazing,' 'awesome' and 'fabulous.' Despite my experience teaching ESL and working with Middle Eastern and Islamic culture, I was a little apprehensive when told that my students would be all males, in their 20s, and from Saudi Arabia. What I found were students who were sweet, open-minded, enthusiastic and engaged in their learning (most of the time!).

"During the past year, it has delighted me to walk across campus and see our students arm-in-arm with an American student; to hear of their fun weekends with new American friends; and to see how one campus is making a difference in Arab-American relations."

### Forrest Caskey, MA TESOL

Caskey joined the IEP faculty in fall 2010 as a graduate teaching assistant and continued as a writing instructor after receiving his MA TESOL from WCU.



"One of my greatest experiences is watching students learn something new that affects their lives in a profound way. When young minds start to open, my mind opens as well. Teaching writing gives me extra insight into students' thoughts and beliefs. Writing is cathartic for many people. Being able to share such an experience with my students is a special part of being a writing teacher.

"In September I traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Lima, Peru, to recruit international students for the IEP and WCU. This event was organized and sponsored by Education USA and the U.S. Department of State. I was uplifted to meet such motivated and determined students who value education."

### Constance Foss, MA Linguistics/ESL

Foss joined the IEP faculty this semester. She teaches listening/speaking.

"I chose a profession in TESOL because I am a lifelong lover of learning. As I teach my students the basics and nuances of my language, their responses teach me



about their own cultures. Every class is an experience of intercultural exchange.

"As an instructor of intensive English, I see myself not only as an English teacher but also as an ambassador. If my international students experience our classroom as a place of welcome and goodwill, perhaps they will leave this place with a positive impression of the United States. Who knows what the outcome will be?"



### Jana Williams

Williams is currently a graduate student in WCU's MA TESOL program. She began serving as administrative assistant to IEP director in January 2010.

"I worked in the Writing Center (now WaLC) for a semester when I first entered the TESOL master's program. Then I received

a grad assistantship through the IEP. I was very surprised to learn that a majority of the students in the program were Arabs. This opportunity with IEP was serendipitous as I had lived in the Middle East in Jordan and Yemen for more than 13 years. During that time I enjoyed informally tutoring and encouraging students in their English studies.

"My experience in the IEP has been more rewarding than I could have imagined. In the eight months I have been here, I have seen a group of young men and women grow in confidence and linguistic abilities, as well as witnessing their expressions of appreciation for the program and their teachers.

### Ali Alnakhli

"I was excited to be a freshman and take the first step to my goal. Being a freshman has a different taste, because I feel that I am getting closer and closer to achieving my dream. When I started college classes, I felt that I can keep going and get a good grade, if I work hard. This is the key.

"I studied in Intensive English Program for almost a year. The IEP director and instructors worked hard to support me and make me ready for college. I'm really grateful for everything.



**Connie Hanna,**  
MPH, MA TESOL  
*Director, Intensive English Program*

"Faculty and students in the Intensive English Program join me in congratulating our first two IEP graduates to enter WCU as bachelor's candidates this fall. Ali Alnakhli from Medina, Saudi Arabia, and Youssef "Joseph" Alamri from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, have worked hard in their English studies this past year to earn their new freshman status.

"This year my goal is to attract new students to the IEP from a variety of countries around the world. In addition to the 'Saudi guys,' we now have students from South Korea and France and are preparing to welcome new students from Mexico, Peru and Kenya in spring."





# Saudi Students Add Flair to I-Fest



Throughout its 30-plus years, the annual International Festival, or I-Fest, has provided the WCU community with the unique opportunity to engage and explore world cultures and customs through a wide range of mediums, including food, music, dance and artistry. I-Fest is a five-to-six-hour-long celebration that occurs every April at WCU. I-Fest coordinators usually expect attendance to reach 1,500 visitors. Thanks to the Intensive English Program at WCU, a large number of Saudi Arabian students were on hand this year as willing participants in an auction to raise funds for international charities. The Saudis also captivated a huge audience by putting on a traditional wedding and dance. And notably, home-schooled third-grader Rylan Mueller took first place on the challenging international quiz. Congratulations to Rylan!



## How to Study Abroad During the Great Recession: A Top 10 List

So many of us are feeling the bite of this stubborn economic downturn, and this has raised the question, "How can I possibly afford to study abroad now?" In response, here is a Top 10 list of ways to make a fantastic study abroad experience happen even during these hard times.

### 1) Think Outside The Box – go nontraditional

Did you know that you can study abroad in China on exchange for a semester or full year for LESS total cost than it costs you to be living here on campus in Cullowhee? Also, classes at our partnerships in China are taught in English, so you aren't limited to just merry old England and Australia as options for going abroad. Plus, there is no doubt of the importance China will play in the global economy, so why not give it a try? Other great opportunities exist in places like the University of Botswana, where the classes are all taught in English, the country is very safe, and it is actually cheaper to be there on a direct enrollment program (where you pay that institution directly) than it is to go there on exchange for a semester or year.



*For more information, go to the following websites about our partners in China:*

[interoffice.ctbu.edu.cn/nf/en\\_index.asp](http://interoffice.ctbu.edu.cn/nf/en_index.asp)  
[gxnu.edu.cn/ENGLISHxauat.edu.cn/jdeg/index.html](http://gxnu.edu.cn/ENGLISHxauat.edu.cn/jdeg/index.html)

*For more information about our ISEP partnership in Botswana:*

[isep.org/students/Directory/member\\_site.asp?CSID=254&ID=359](http://isep.org/students/Directory/member_site.asp?CSID=254&ID=359)

### 2) Take the time to find people who want to give you money

Believe it or not, even in these desperate times there are still people and organizations that have money that they want to give you to study abroad! Start looking for funding at least eight months before you want to go abroad. Here are some great resources WCU students can take advantage of:

A) The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship (<http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program>) is open to all students receiving Pell Grants, and it can put \$5,000 in your pocket for a study abroad program.

B) Going to Asia? Apply for the Freeman-Asia Scholarship (<http://www.iie.org/en/programs/freeman-asia>) and get up to \$7,000 for studying abroad. C) Going to Europe?

Think about Germany! Germany offers more scholarships for study abroad students than any other country in the world, including some full-ride scholarships such as the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (<http://www.cdsintl.org/fellowshipsabroad/cbyx.php>), as well as numerous other scholarships with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) (<http://www.daad.org/>). D) Don't forget WCU! Check with your home department, including the Honors College, to see

what travel grants or scholarships may be available to you. And finally, E) Ask the study abroad staff to help you look for funding opportunities!

### 3) If you can't go abroad for a long time, go abroad for a short time instead

One way to cut on overall costs is to go for a "short but sweet" study abroad program. One option is to look for intensive programs with shorter dates. WCU's No. 1 partnership for intensive Spanish study, in Granada, Spain, ([www.educatrip.com](http://www.educatrip.com)) offers a great intensive Spanish language program during the semester that has 220 contact hours where you can earn up to 12 credit hours in Spanish language study and lasts just less than 90 days. This program saves WCU students more than \$2,000 dollars over the regular semester program, and because it is under 90 days, you do not need to get a student visa for this program. Summer study abroad programs can also save on costs and are often between 30-50 percent cheaper than many semester-long programs, but you are trading time for summer, where you are often abroad for four to six weeks instead of 14-16 weeks.

Another great option is to go abroad on a WCU faculty-led program (<http://www.wcu.edu/22996.asp>).

### 4) Do a homestay and see the benefits of cooking-in rather than eating out

Another great tip, especially if you are looking at doing an intensive language program overseas, is to opt for a homestay option to save some money up front and while you are abroad. Most homestay

options include two to three meals a day and laundry service for the duration of your study abroad program and are often cheaper than staying in a residence hall or private apartment where you will have to add in the cost of your food and laundry. Another good option when studying abroad is to go for accommodations that are "self-catered." These mean that your residence hall has either an in-suite kitchen or shared kitchen where you can save a lot of money by cooking your own food rather than going out to eat on a regular basis. Furthermore, a lot of our students organize "cooking clubs" where roommates share on groceries and rotate who cooks meals for the whole group. This is great fun, is much cheaper and healthier, and you get to try wonderful dishes at a bargain price prepared by all your new international friends.

### 5) Cheap travel – take part in excursions and plan to couch-surf with people you know and trust

One of the greatest pleasures of studying abroad is the opportunity to travel. However, with a weak dollar in your pocket, it is easy to feel that travel is beyond your budget. Nearly all study abroad programs offer built-in excursions that are either included with the cost of the program or are at very discounted prices. These are a great way to go to places you may not otherwise have thought to go, and are a great way to meet other students studying abroad. Also, we recommend you network with your fellow WCU students who are going abroad and your new friends at your host university so that you have friends in other places you can visit. This is much safer than traveling to places by yourself and staying with people you do not know. Also, you will have a lot of great experiences to share with each other while saving a bunch on hotels or hostels.

### 6) Do as the locals do – travel light and get in the habit of spending time rather than money

Nearly all of us overpack when we go abroad. You really only need a few days' worth of clothes, and what you will save in airline luggage fees, frustration and a bad back will go a long way to make you much happier. When you do make plans for activities or travel, find out about all the student discounts you can take advantage of. Very often you will be eligible for some great savings as a student, so ask your host university and new friends about these

opportunities. Also, some of the best things to do abroad are free. City parks, beaches, public museums, outdoor festivals, etc., are some of the best experiences you can have abroad and often cost nothing.

### 7) Look into the possibility of (legal) part-time work

Before you go abroad, save as much as you can so you have some spending money. However, if you think you may want to do some kind of part-time work abroad, check and be sure that doing so will not violate your visa requirements. If you can work abroad, the international office at your host university can often help you find "casual work" opportunities on campus where you can work a few hours each week to earn some spending money. Some students find opportunities to teach or tutor in conversational English while abroad, which can also help you better learn the language of your host country. While you may be tempted to work "under the table," we recommend you don't do this so that you do not risk being deported back home!

### 8) Find out where the locals shop

Just like many places in the U.S.A., the touristy places are wonderful to visit but are much more expensive than just-around-the-corner where the locals shop. Find out where the local students shop for their groceries and check it out as soon as you can. Often there may be weekly markets where you can buy all kinds of supplies on the cheap, or there may be particular stores that offer good products at reasonable prices. Network and become a savvy shopper!

### 9) Buy the best walking shoes you can afford

Travel by foot is the best way to really get to know a place. Nearly all our students who go abroad find that they are walking so much more than they ever have before, so don't go cheap on your footwear! While you may have driven your car from Central or the Catamount Peak down to campus for class, realize that overseas many people would not ever consider driving a car (even if they owned one) such a short distance. Not only will you be much more fit after all this walking, but you will save a lot on transportation costs by walking or riding a bike whenever you can. Plus, after awhile, most of us really learn to love this ancient mode of travel.

### 10) Change your perspectives and priorities for a better life in the 21st century

Instead of thinking "How can I afford to study abroad now?" in these uncertain times, consider flipping this argument on its head: "How can I NOT afford to study abroad now?" More than ever, we must consider what is valuable, what will give us and those we care about the most opportunity for a better future, and what we can do to make things better for others.



# Reflections From Across the Waters: Catamounts Abroad

In effort to share with you the thoughts of WCU students studying overseas while they are still-in the moment, we asked Catamounts abroad to reflect upon their experiences and to consider what they have learned about the world in general and about themselves. Here are some of their answers:

**Cati Branton- Sophomore**  
Communications-Honors College  
**Currently at Hannam University, Daejon, South Korea- Fall 2011**



...for me, it is pretty good here. My first week was pretty rough, but the people I am meeting here are amazing. I don't know if I have learned anything else about the world, but I have learned a lot about Korean culture and how the people here act differently than we do. I am changing significantly I think because I am more independent here....I am surprised by the fact that I am not sure whether I want to live here in my future or not. I always wanted to work in Korea, live in Korea, and marry in Korea, but now I am not sure what I want to do. I am meeting so many people from other parts of the world and it is making me feel like staying in just Korea is neglecting everyone else. What if I like Ireland just as much? (Which I'm pretty sure I will!) I am having a great time making new friends and learning.

**Tiffany Losada- Sophomore** Exercise Science  
**Currently at ILYC Granada, Spain, Fall 2011**



Still can't get over the fact that I am living in such a beautiful place....I've never stayed in another country this long before but the time has already passed so quickly! I need to embrace everyday like it's my last one here because before I even realize it, it will be. I have decided I am definitely going to live somewhere besides the U.S. when I'm older, at least for a few years. Whether it be Spain or somewhere in South America, it just needs to happen. This lifestyle is so unique, magnificent and different from what I've known, and until now I had not realized what it truly means to be an American. I can't wait to be fluent in Spanish! I feel like I have been waiting my whole life to be bilingual, and it's finally happening. I have learned so much these past few weeks from class, mis amigos, my host mom, and overall just interacting every place I go- it's so great! Studying abroad was one of the best decisions I've ever made and all I know is, I've got the travel bug badly and I need to see and experience the rest of the world!

taken from Tiffany's blog:  
[tiffanytravels.tumblr.com](http://tiffanytravels.tumblr.com).

**Allison Brinley- Junior** Marketing/  
Hospitality-Tourism  
**Currently at GMIT, Ireland, Fall 2011**



This time one year ago, I never thought I would be studying in the beautiful country of Ireland. I jumped at the opportunity as soon as I found out I could do it. I have only been here for one month and I have learned so much. It is great to be able to see all the different people, the different culture, and the way they do things. Not only am I seeing it, but I am living it. I have to adjust to the Irish way of life by taking on their customs and even their slang. It can be hard at times since I am so used to the American way of life, but it has been a real eye-opener. This is going to continue to be an experience I will never forget. I am looking forward to what lies ahead

**Marissa Duncan- Sophomore** English Education-Honors College  
**Currently at Lille III, Paris, France, Fall 2011**



So far, studying abroad has been one of the most challenging things I have ever done. I've had to learn how to truly be independent in a country where I don't always understand what the people around me are saying or what is going on. You can't really grasp what it means to study abroad, what it means to be in a totally unfamiliar place, until you are there. Things seemed especially impossible in the first few days, when I was constantly lost- physically and culturally- and was really struggling with the language. But tomorrow I'll have been here for a month exactly, and I've realized that I am capable of far more than I ever thought I was. By the time I return, I'll have grown even more. And for me personally, it's a huge deal just to know that I can do this. If I can be successful living in a foreign country for four months, then what can't I do?

Besides that, it has just been incredible to experience everyday life in a totally different way. I eat far too many baguettes, I can get almost anywhere I want without a car, and I am surrounded by beautiful architecture. Every day, I meet new people who can teach me something about a culture that is not my own. In that sense, France is everything I dreamed about and expected, and I adore it.

**Scott Alan Clark- Junior** History Education  
**Currently at Tec De Monterrey, Querétaro Campus, Mexico, 2011-2012**



...My study abroad experience has not only allowed me to experience a whole different style of education, but also placed me in an environment that promotes personal, independent growth. Living on my own has allowed me to develop as an individual with my own goals and growth in mind. Before leaving the United States, I had never even traveled off the east coast of my own country. Through my study abroad, my international horizon has been expanded and allowed me to meet people from a myriad of countries, cultures, and walks of life. Meeting new people has opened up an entire world of experiences that could not be achieved at my home university. Living in a "foreign" country in an apartment full of people from different places has taught me to be much more accepting of others. Also, I have come to appreciate things from back home that I take for granted. Simply stated, my study abroad experience has allowed me to develop as an individual with a much more international mindset. I have grown to appreciate new experiences, new places, new cultures, and new people. Without this opportunity, I cannot imagine how much differently my life would be.

**Kayla Overcash-Sophomore** Forensic Sciences- Honors College  
**Currently at Avans University- Applied Sciences Program, Breda, The Netherlands, Fall 2011**



The culture here is very different than back in the United States. It's taken some time

**Marcus Mentzer- Sophomore** Natural Resources Management- Honors College  
**Currently at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, Fall 2011**

to get used to it. The Dutch people though have been very friendly. They're usually willing to speak English and to help you. Especially my fellow classmates. They've been a big help. I've learned to be more open and accepting to other cultures and to be more independent. So much of this experience is new to me. It's my first time flying by myself, living in an apartment, and even leaving the country. I've had to stop comparing everything to back home and just accept things as the "Dutch way" and that's where I'm living now, so I have to adjust. All of us here are from different countries and I've learned so much about all of them. It's great how a lot of the international students live near each other which makes it easy to make friends. I can now say I have friends from all over the world!

**Kaitlyn Conger- Sophomore** Elementary Education- Honors College  
**Currently at University of Technology-Sydney Australia , Spring 2011**



My study abroad experience was an incredible, once in a lifetime opportunity. I lived in Sydney, Australia for five months where I was a university student but traveled every chance I had. I ended up touring the entire eastern coast of Australia (Cairns to Melbourne), island hopped in Fiji, and explored the North Island of New Zealand. I met so many people from all over the world and created lifelong friendships. I learned about multiple cultures, saw the similarities and differences between Aussie and American primary schools, and went

from living in the mountains in Cullowhee to seeing skyscrapers outside my apartment in Sydney. Words cannot express how fortunate I am to have all these memories that I will cherish for a life time. I believe that the study abroad program is the best way to travel, represent your home, meet new people, understand various cultures, and learn about yourself. I would not trade one moment of my time in Australia.

**Andrew Duncan Sophomore**  
Motion Pictures & Television  
Currently at University of Glamorgan-  
Center for Creative Industries, Cardiff, Wales,  
Fall 2011



...Reflecting upon the past month, I'd say it's been an exciting blur of adventures, stress, unfamiliarity, and probably the best time of my young adult life. Just prior to this chapter in my life I was interning in California, a stagnant lifestyle of work and sleep. Wales is completely converse and I'm still stuck with a surreal realization of my presence here.

In a quick summary, we've devoted the majority of our time to settling in, socializing, eating, and practicing music, occasionally playing at a pub, talent show, or house party. We're very well received and it inspires me to perfect my talent even further. Classes started last week and our ensemble studies 2 course is essentially band practice; various assortments of traditional musicians pitted together to be graded on a themed collaboration. We also were in production of a documentary...our documentary class is insightful, but we have not yet begun to get our hands on any cameras. The last of our courses is an introductory animation class, beginning at the fundamentals, drawing. This will demand most of our week day hours, learning to animate by pencil and translating it into a video format. ...

The student exchange program is an

opportunity worth taking. What started as an impulsive desire to travel overseas has now become one of the most exciting chapters in my life. It's a fun feeling to be foreign, submersing myself in the culture of Cardiff, Wales, and the United Kingdom. In 3 months time, I'll be the target of questions, shot by my American friends, family, and fellow peers. My answer will be extensive beyond an instant verbal synopsis, resulting in a simple "It was great". It will take years to really analyze how amazing this whole journey has been and how beneficial it has been for me. Any curious individual thinking about studying abroad shouldn't think twice, do it.

**Kelly Moore Sophomore** Speech and Communication Disorders  
Currently at GMIT, Galway, Ireland- Fall 2011



It has been about three weeks so far I have been living in the beautiful country of Ireland. I tried to prepare myself on the six-hour flight for what to expect when I stepped off the plane; however the pieces of what I could imagine weren't exactly the reality.

...As the days go by, I naturally compare the lifestyles of the Irish to back home in WNC. Some of the things that are different here include the mode of transportation for the majority of people (especially students) which is mostly walking, and a good amount also ride bikes.... Another big change in my life right now is all the differences at my school, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology...The campus is in one giant building, with four split level floors. I found out that the teachers, called

"tutors" here may or may not come to class in the first couple weeks, or are subject to change the room or time any day. This did get frustrating, because I have never experienced a school-setting so relaxed and un-regimented.

...I look forward to meeting more Irish, because as of now I have made friends with other international and Erasmus students. We were all able to get to know each other a week and a half before school started during orientation and before all the Irish arrived. However, I have enjoyed getting to know people from all over the world and getting a glimpse of others cultures and perspectives while I am here. I have had to have a lot of patience though when speaking with other people, because not everyone speaks English fluently and a lot of students have strong dialects. The Irish usually speak English, and when they do it is extremely fast. But the more I engage myself in conversations, the more I can pick up and get the hang of it.

I learn something new every day, and I try to push myself out of my comfort zones to try new things and take in as much as I can. I remind myself that I only have a limited time here, and to make the best out of situations. I plan on traveling as much as I can here in Ireland, and have already been on several tours, like to the Cliffs of Moher and Connemara. I also plan on going to other countries in Europe, and have a trip planned to Barcelona for our week-long fall break at the end of October. My parents will be visiting in a week, and I plan on taking them to some of the neat places I have been to so far, as well as the Aran Islands and cities like Cork and Dublin. Overall, I have already had the time of my life, and I cannot wait for the upcoming adventures as I soak in every moment for these memories to last me a lifetime!

**James Ruff Senior** English-Professional Writing- Honors College  
Currently at UNC London Honors Program, London, England- Fall 2011



I have been in London for a very short time, it is the farthest from home that I have ever been and though the journey was long and the adjustment was shocking I have enjoyed every place that I have seen. I have always heard of America as a melting pot, but here I can walk from one block to another and find people of all different walks of life mixed with one another in a city where one building may date back hundreds of years and right next door is one that was built following the blitz.

**Taylor Mendelsohn Sophomore**  
Entrepreneurship  
Currently at Hannam University, Daejon, South Korea- Fall 2011



My experience in Korea so far has been really awesome. The campus is absolutely beautiful and the school takes pride in keeping it that way. I was surprised by how many beautification workers there are working almost every day to keep the school looking pristine. Korean people are very friendly, and foreigners really don't surprise them so much as there are many foreign teachers and there is even a international school right next to Hannam.

Daejeon is mixed bag of a city, it can be loud and exciting or quiet and serene. Not forty minutes away from campus you can reach the outer areas of Daejeon filled with hills and mountains and more quiet suburban life. The food here is delicious and affordable. Traditional Korean restaurants serve a few side dishes (including rice and eggs) along with your meal and you can request as much of it as you want! So eating well is not difficult. If you're afraid of Korean food or you're not into spicy food it is still very easy to survive. Pizza and fried chicken are the second most popular types of food

here. While the Korean language may be somewhat difficult to learn to speak, the people are encouraging and don't expect you to speak it, and will go to sometimes great lengths to explain something nonverbally. Although I would recommend you learn to read hangul, it is so easy (easier than our written alphabet) and will make you feel much more immersed here and a little bit less lost.

Shopping is fun as the styles here come from a in some ways, very different modern culture. Though American and western culture has penetrated most of the earth, Korea very strongly holds onto its own culture. Unlike in a lot of mainland Europe, Korea doesn't constantly remind you of the pop stars from back home. They have hundreds and hundreds of their own. All in all Korea is a fascinating country worth visiting or studying in for anyone. I didn't come here with a ton of knowledge, respect or interest in Korea and it's culture, but I certainly will leave with it.

**Emma Wilkie Sophomore** Elementary Education- Honors College  
Currently at Linnaeus University- Kalmar Campus, Sweden- Fall 2011



I have been having a great time here in Kalmar! The first two weeks were hectic and full of partying due to the introduction period, however things have calmed down a lot since school started last monday. I have met so many great people here, Swedes and exchange students alike, and feel as though I will continue to have a very enjoyable stay here studying at Linnaeus. This weekend I am going to Ocktoberfest in Munich, Germany with some friends and really plan on getting out and experiencing more of Europe as the semester progresses. As for school I am taking a Swedish Part 1 course, my PSY 323 online course for WCU, and a Preschool and compulsory school in Sweden and abroad courses this semester. I have already done some field experience in an elementary school in

Kalmar, Djurangsskolan, and have found much interest and enjoyment out of this experience. I still have many more hours to work there and can't wait to learn more about their education system. Because the students are so young and don't really get into advanced English until the middle school ages, I have found difficulty communicating with them well. However the teacher I am working with knows English well and has been able to translate much of what I say. Overall, I have been having a great time studying abroad and have found that the most eye opening experiences occur when you simply just get out of your comfort zone and try to immerse yourself in what's foreign. There is always something new to do here and I appreciate this opportunity to truly discover more about myself.

**Jettana Thomas Junior** Social Work-Honors College  
Currently at University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia- Fall 2011



At first a study abroad meant freedom to explore change and to leave Cullowhee for 6 months. Yet as I go through this experience the words "Study Abroad" mean so much more. I am currently studying in Queensland Australia, at the University of Sunshine Coast, a place full of sun, beaches, and of course kangaroos. I enjoy my classes and the change in teaching and learning styles here. Australia has given me an opportunity to expand my academic limits, open my mind to new adventures, make lasting friendship with people from various parts of the world, and taught me the importance of budgets. Studying abroad is a great experience but it is more than learning new courses and academic information it is a time to learn about yourself as well as the ways of others. Australia was once a dream for me but now it's a goal reached and a step stool for many more to come!



## Brazilian City Offers Potential for Choice to Study Abroad

The drive up the mountainous road from Rio de Janeiro to Petropolis, Brazil, was amazing. I sat in the back of the car with my husband while our host, Ronald Cavalcanti Ledo, from the Universidade Católica de Petrópolis (UCP), pointed out the sights. The road was winding, through thick green forests and along trickling streams. We climbed the mountain for about an hour. There were some straight sections of the road where we could admire the peaks of the mountains and had long vistas and views of rural towns. Once we arrived in Petropolis, the first things I noticed were the

architecture and the colder temperatures. Petropolis is an Imperial City, where the last emperor of Brazil, Don Pedro II, resided with his family. It also sits about 2,600 feet above sea level; I surely missed the warm weather of Rio de Janeiro my first day or so in Petropolis. Nevertheless, I was so excited to arrive in a new city with such a rich history.

From the Crystal Palace – built in 1884 and used by the imperial family as an exhibition space – to the Don Pedro II Imperial Palace and gardens, there are a tremendous amount of historical sites to experience. I was eager

to learn more about the history and region and see as much as possible. There is plenty to see! Ronald explained the background of the city, people and industry, and of course told us about his university – the reason I was in Brazil. Besides my love of Latin American culture, language and history, I was on a mission: I had three days to learn more about this wonderful city, meet students, tour the campus, and come back with information for WCU's Office of International Programs and Services (IPS) and the Office of Admission.

Petropolis reminds me a lot of Asheville. Its population is just more than 300,000, and although larger than Asheville, the mountains, weather and architecture made me feel like I was home. Petropolis has a lot of outdoor activities such as rafting, hiking and climbing, and its proximity to Rio de Janeiro also makes it very appealing. Rio is one of the top destinations in Latin America, with beautiful beaches, the famous Cristo statue, historical monuments and Afro-Brazilian culture that can be experienced through music, food and dance.

The food in Brazil and Petropolis is extremely varied. You can find restaurants of all kinds, from Italian to French, as well as enjoy a churrasco (Brazilian barbecue), which will leave your stomach full and your palate satisfied. If you end up eating too much for lunch, you will be fine, because lunches are enjoyed over a two-hour period,



so you will have plenty of time for a nap or to enjoy a cafecito (small black coffee) and chat with your friends.

Like many Latin American cities, Petropolis has a wonderful public transportation system, and I found that I could get around most days on foot. The only trouble was when it rained, but I still rolled up my jean bottoms, put on a bright pink hat, opened my umbrella and enjoyed walking the city in a downpour one afternoon.

It is hard to find words to describe the culture and people of Brazil. Like many cultures, you cannot fit theirs in one box. Brazil is multidimensional and will be interpreted differently by each observer. I can only speak for myself, and what I found was a very warm, open and friendly culture. One of my favorite phrases from Brazil is "fique tranquilo" (or "don't worry"). I heard this saying on a daily basis during my travels, and the calmness that radiated from people was fascinating.

Overall, I grew and learned so much on this trip, and I walked away a more diverse, accepting and knowledgeable woman.

Upon my return to the USA and WCU, I have reported back to International Programs and Services, and staff members there are in the process of developing a program for WCU students to visit UCP. We have met with the College of Business, the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and the Kimmel School about UCP and Brazil. I think that the many opportunities



available in Brazil for WCU would benefit the faculty, staff and students. If you are interested in more information, I am available to talk with you individually or to classes about Brazil and my experiences there. There are many opportunities in Brazil, and I recommend that you look into traveling there, studying Portuguese and learning more about this culturally rich and growing nation. I plan to be a part of the growth of this wonderful country. Will you join me?

*Sarah Nunez works for WCU as a regional assistant director of admission at A-B Tech. She has recently returned from a four-week Rotary Club Group Study Exchange trip to Rio Grande do Sul in the south of Brazil and a visit to Universidade Católica de Petrópolis and Rio de Janeiro for IPS and Admissions.*





## International Students Making a Difference on WCU Campus *Continued from cover*

outdoor recreation.

For the first time at WCU, IPS welcomed two exchange students, Daniel Galaso and Rocío Hinojosa, from the Universidad de Málaga, Spain. Both students presently work as Spanish language tutors at WCU's newly renovated Writing and Learning Commons (WaLC). One of the goals they have as tutors is to influence more American students to study abroad in Spain or other Spanish-speaking countries.

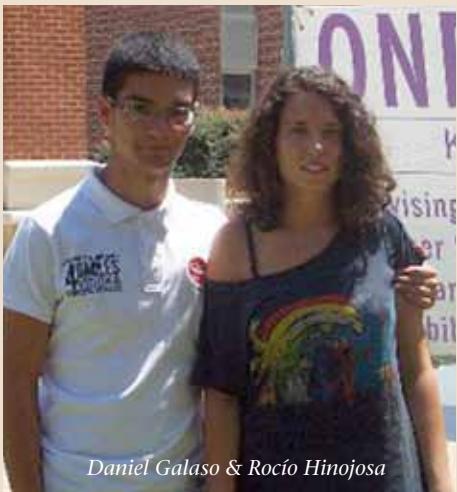
Tanja Jetter, a German / English major on exchange from the Universität Mannheim, Germany, works as a Tele-Recruiter with the WCU Office of Admissions to target American students. Part of her job is to call potential students to invite them to



Tanja Jetter

Open House at WCU and to remind these potential students about deadlines for admission to WCU.

As another part of the transition to help international students integrate with the academic and cultural aspects of WCU, IPS continues to recruit Host Families in the WCU community. These Host Families make friends with and provide opportunities for new international students to learn and understand American culture. These opportunities typically include a family meal or picnic, attending a community event, a WCU sporting event, or perhaps just a hike. By the same token, American families can learn and better understand foreign culture by hosting international students. To become a Host Family, simply call IPS



Daniel Galaso & Rocío Hinojosa



Fern Lulham

828.227.7494.

Other opportunities by which international students at WCU have participated over the past decade include the K-12 International Outreach Program. Students have a chance to visit local schools within the western most counties of North Carolina. This outreach program was initially created in response to a need to tap into resources at WCU (and at all UNC system schools) that teach about the world's diversity, cultures, languages, etc. in an interactive and informative manner. At past events, international students presented on various topics about their home countries, native languages and food, or unique differences with the USA that they have observed. Most recently, numerous presentations have been made at Tuscola High school in Waynesville, NC, every fall semester as part of this school's World Language Day celebration.

Continuing to host international students at WCU provides the opportunity for faculty, students and staff to realize that there is a larger world that impacts us all. This awareness includes understanding, sensitivity, appreciation and responsiveness to cultural differences. IPS hopes that the WCU community will continue to embrace this office's internationalization efforts, which IPS has geared toward the creation of a more conducive learning environment for both local and international students.