



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Director's Corner.....	2
Travel Courses Popular.....	3
IEP Director's Corner.....	6
Saudi Students Visit School.....	7
Study Abroad Fair.....	8
Trip to British Isles.....	9
Visits to Sites Abroad.....	11
Jamaica Trip Rewarding.....	12

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

NGO Supports Travel of WCU Students, Staff to China

In partnership with Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China and Xinjiang University, the Carolina China Council, a nongovernmental organization in Raleigh, awarded international travel scholarships for North Carolina college students and teachers to participate in a three-week international cultural exchange program with Xinjiang, China, in June 2012, with the central intention to foster cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect among college students and adult leaders from Xinjiang and North Carolina and empower them with the skills and multi-cultural knowledge to become ambassadors in a globalizing world.

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, established in 1955, lies in northwestern China. Largest in area in all the province-level administrative regions of China, this region covers an area of 1.66 million square kilometers, one-sixth of Chinese territory, and borders eight countries: Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Mongolia, India and Afghanistan. Historically, Xinjiang served as the key controlling section of the well-known "Silk Road" while now it is an unavoidable part of the railway leading to the second Eurasia Continental Bridge.

Continued on page 10



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



The 2012 fall semester has proven to be a very busy and productive one in the office of International Programs and Services.

We are happy to announce that we have just hired a new administrative assistant, Betty Dishman. She started working in our office on November 1.

We welcome Betty to our staff and know that she will be a great addition to our international family.

Although we are still searching for the director of intensive English program, we hope to have a person in place by January 1, 2013. Our intensive English instructors have been doing a great job during the absence of a leader. We commend them for their energy and dedication!

This summer, I had the opportunity to meet with all of the deans in the colleges of education and allied professions, arts and sciences, fine and performing arts, health and human sciences and business as well as the Honors College and the Kimmel School to identify

the extent to which the colleges have internationalized in regard to study abroad, international student recruitment, international faculty visitors, international faculty research, participation in international conferences and international internships. I am happy to report that our colleges are moving forward with international endeavors of various types. Many of the colleges have faculty who are designing travel courses for their students during our fall and spring breaks, as well as during the summer.

Additionally, we have faculty interested in making site visits to our partner institutions to explore various ways to internationalize and solidify international engagement among their students. We are making a few trips to England, Ireland, Scotland, Finland, Germany and China with faculty members from forensic science, forensic anthropology, and education. If you have an idea you would like to explore, please contact our office to discuss how we can most feasibly assist you.

Our incoming students are eagerly looking for ways to expand their global knowledge in hands-on activities and projects. The ideas are limitless!

Lois Petrovich-Mwaniki

Director of the Office of International Programs and Services

Internationalizing Teacher Education

On Sept. 19, the four working groups of the statewide Internationalizing Teacher Education Committee met at the Raleigh Hilton North in advance of the annual N.C. Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (or NCACTE) forum to hold a workshop titled "Collaborative Strategies for Internationalizing Teacher Education." World View presenters from UNC Chapel Hill, Julie Kinnaird and Katherine Robinson, reviewed challenges to global education and reviewed programs that World View conducts for in-service K-12 educators.

Throughout the day, the working groups focused their attention on the following four topics: internationalizing student teaching, internationalizing practicum (field experience) courses; using videoconferencing and technology in the classroom; and utilizing local international resources. In attendance were 48 university faculty and administrators from the 17 UNC system universities. During the afternoon the working groups reconvened to develop recommendations.

Members of the internationalizing student teaching group had a number of suggestions, one of which was the recommendation that there be a centralized course for which

students could register across the system. In a discussion with Alisa Chapman, General Administration vice president for academic and university programs, it was discovered that there is a similar concern among the faculty involved with the language consortium. Students currently enroll in language classes but have to navigate through very difficult and "clunky" processes to apply. The issues that have had to be addressed include the fact that there is no common course catalogue in the UNC system. A pilot project is being launched this fall in the UNC system that will waive low-productivity review in the language consortium and hopefully become a model for a more seamless way for inter-institutional coursework.

Members of the virtual/technology workgroup reported the biggest problem that emerged in their discussions was the lack of knowledge among the faculty, suggesting a real need for professional development for faculty in technology utilization. The report from the internationalizing practicum courses working group noted that the presence of several new members provided some new insights, and a big issue for this topic is the need for faculty buy-in and the

need for good infrastructure to reconfigure curriculum. Lastly, the report from the utilizing international local resources working group explained that this group did not have good representation from across the system. They resolved to continue to collect additional resources that are available in addition to the ones represented on the working group, and then would seek to develop a strategy recommendation for utilizing these resources more intentionally and hopefully provide a model that could be applied to all disciplines. For all the working groups it was clear that appropriate infrastructure was key to implementation.

Also present at the workshop was the chair of the UNC Faculty Assembly, Catherine Rigsby (ECU). She introduced the new international committee that was recently formed to look into international student success, job possibilities for international students once they graduate and the articulation of courses from foreign institutions to the UNC system universities.

Next year the working group discussions will be woven into the NCACTE annual forum and will provide a rich venue for further integration between the public and private university programs in the state.



Study in Kenya, Jamaica, South Africa Continues in Popularity



As we reach the halfway mark in fall semester 2012, we continue to be encouraged by achievements over the past year in our faculty-led travel course program and we are eagerly anticipating another great year of study and travel opportunities for our students moving into 2013. Thanks to the efforts of dedicated faculty and staff in Hunter Library, modern foreign languages, recreation therapy, nutrition and dietetics, education, nursing, social work, political science, anthropology, sociology, art, criminal justice and interior design, almost 130 WCU students were able to take part in faculty-led travel courses and service opportunities during the 2011-12 academic year. Students were exposed to cultures as different as Cuba and Korea, Jamaica and Japan, Guatemala and Greece and Scotland and Kenya. Perhaps most significant of all, we are beginning to develop several WCU travel course and service traditions.

For the third year in a row, sociology and anthropology students traveled with Drs. Anthony Hickey and Nyaga Mwaniki to Wongonyi village in Kenya. Within only three short years, "the Kenya class," as it's come to be known, has grown from a course that in its first year struggled to recruit a sufficient number of students to make it viable to become a class that now has to turn away interested students because of space limitations. Excitement over the opportunity to travel and learn in

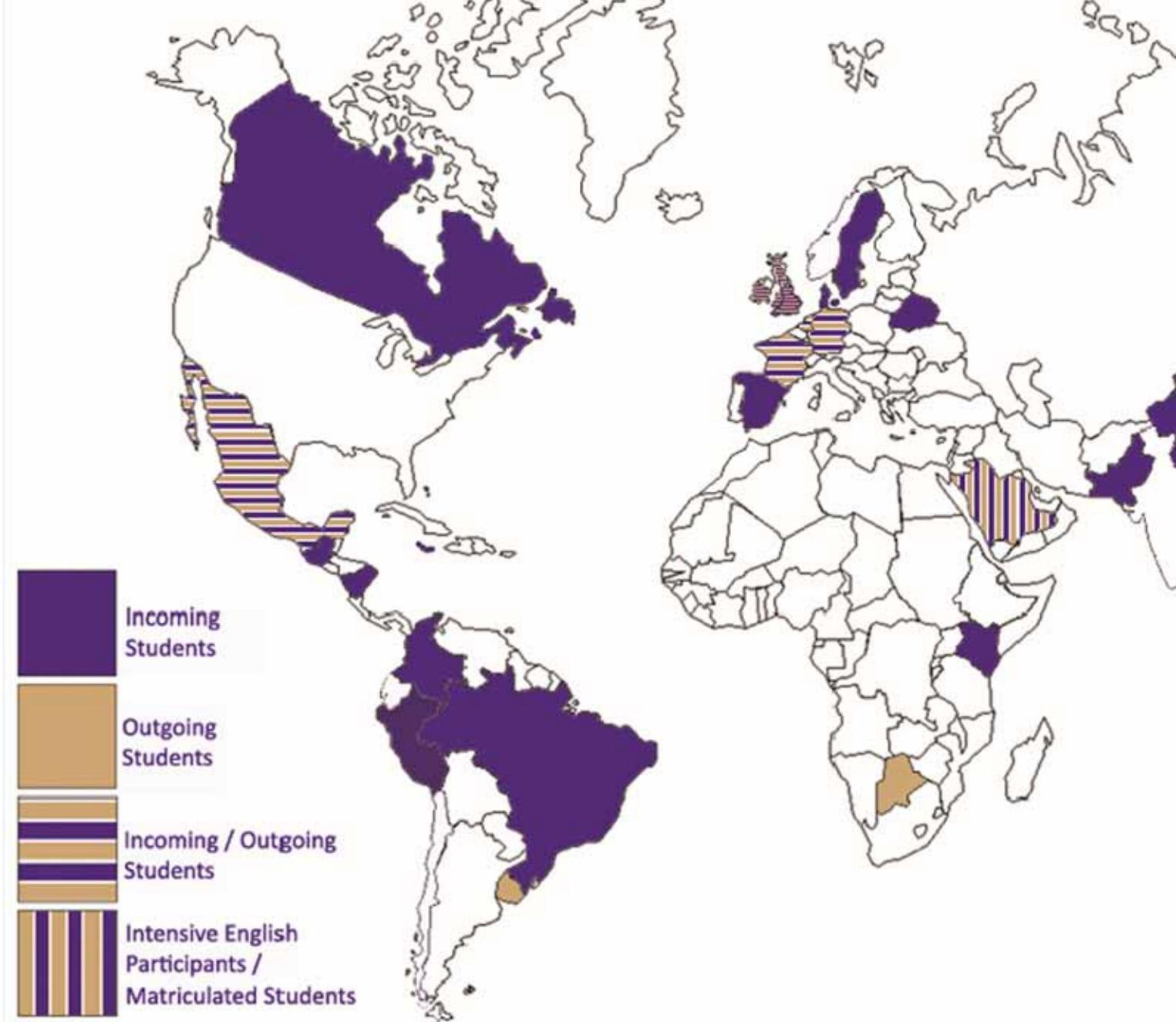
an environment so different from our own has led to students and faculty members in other departments working to make possible their own department-specific courses in Kenya. We are anticipating that not only will the anthropology and sociology group travel for a fourth consecutive year, but that in summer 2013 students and faculty in education and nursing also will be seeing the sights and experiencing the culture in and around Wongonyi.

A second developing tradition of which we are most proud is the opportunity WCU students now have to learn about and visit Jamaica. Since 1970, Western Carolina has offered the Bachelor of Science in middle grades education to Jamaican teachers who have completed a three-year education program in their home country. WCU also regularly sends faculty to Jamaica to teach courses, and each summer, Jamaican teachers come to WCU for a five-week intensive period of study. Yet, despite these longstanding connections between WCU and Jamaica, our own WCU students have had only limited exposure to all that Jamaica and its people have to offer. That began to change in the fall of 2011 when Dr. Victoria Faircloth (School of Teaching and Learning) spearheaded a plan to build on our existing partnership with Jamaica in such a way that WCU students would have an opportunity to experience the culture for themselves. Incorporating WCU's

campuswide Poverty Project theme from the 2011-12 academic year into the group's endeavors, students from across campus worked in orphanages, visited local schools, met with officials from nongovernmental organizations and provided nursing services in medical clinics across the island. The phrases I hear most often when I talk with participants, both faculty and students, is that the trip was "life-changing" and a "once in a lifetime opportunity." As has been the case with the Kenyan travel course, Jamaica is now emerging as a new WCU travel course tradition. Plans are already in the works to send interdisciplinary groups to the island on a regular basis beginning spring break 2013, with plans already being discussed to expand the program as a fall break offering as well in future years. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all the faculty members who have been involved in this program to date: Vicki Faircloth, Anne-Marie Jones, Cheryl Clark, Sheila Chapman, Rebecca Lasher and Mike McDonald.

We hope that in the years to come we will be able to look back at 2012-13 as the year when even more traditions started in terms of travel course opportunities for our students. Thanks to the commitment to internationalizing our campus from faculty across our campus, we are able to offer a number of first-time courses this year. Drs.

continued on page 7



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	12
undergraduate students	39
on exchange	30
Total	81

Countries represented at WCU	27
WCU students abroad	22
IEP participants	24



ALEXIS BLACK
English/film studies;
junior in Scotland



BRIAN GAY
Musical theatre;
sophomore, in Wales



ZANE DOCKERY
Spanish/CIS;
senior, in Mexico



KAREN JIMENEZ
Psychology;
junior, from Colombia



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MARIA KJELLDORF

Pre-engineering;
sophomore, from Sweden



HONGDA SHEN

Electrical engineering
(second year), from China

Intensive English Director Connie Hanna Retires



In summer 2009, Western Carolina University initiated an Intensive English Program (IEP) to serve non-native English speakers seeking to learn the language prior to studying either at WCU or another American university or college. With

the goal of attracting more international students to campus and to the WCU community, Connie Hanna took on the leadership role of director and guided IEP until she retired in August 2012.

In getting all the pieces together to start IEP, Hanna declared that “when so many WCU departments got involved, from both administrative and student affairs units that in many ways altered their normal procedures, to support and get the IEP off the ground, it was such a wonderful cooperation and campuswide effort to see. They truly saw value in diversity,” which the IEP has helped to bring to the WCU community.

In her leisure time, Hanna works and plays a lot at home. Still, she misses contact with and seeing her students connect and build relationships. “I miss most the time when I saw my students change the world,” she said. She speaks still of being proud of WCU academics and the teamwork between

faculty, administrators and staff, as well as seeing the first IEP students matriculate into WCU.

“I’m so very proud of the American students at WCU, who were among the first students who cared enough to get involved and who still have such strong relationships through social networking with the IEP students,” Hanna said. “They embraced the IEP students from the first day.”

Though no longer involved with IEP, Hanna believes the IEP faculty is excellent and she is still resigned to the notion that “we have to teach our IEP participants to be successful students in this individualistic culture. It’s not just teaching English. The hardest part of leading IEP was teaching those who came to the program to be responsible for themselves.”

Hanna’s direction and expertise will be sorely missed by the Office of International Programs and Services, which is currently in the process of hiring her replacement.

IEP Program Congratulates Former Student on Publishing Essay

On behalf of the Intensive English Program (IEP) staff, I would like to congratulate former IEP student Muhned Aljaizani for his recent publication, “Ummah,” in *Ink: Chronicles in Composition*. *Ink* is an annual publication which features a collection of the best essays of the year from Western Carolina University students. Each year hundreds of essays from all academic

disciplines are submitted for review by a panel of WCU professors who choose 10 to 15 of the best written essays to publish. Muhned’s essay was selected as one of the honorary few to be included in the journal.

I have the honor to have been Muhned’s writing teacher for a year and a half when he was a student in the IEP. Muhned began the

program the first semester of its existence. Classes met in a very cramped, very cold room in Reynolds Hall. Learning conditions were nearly turn of the century – and by century I mean 1899-1900. Instead of a modern day, sleek dry erase board, we used pens, paper and an easel. There was no computer in the room, nor Wi-Fi access for laptops, so contemporary teaching and learning methods were scrapped and good ol’ pencils, erasers and black and white composition books were used. Despite the primitive conditions, English was taught and learned, and with apparent success.

Muhned began as a Beginning ESL student and continued through the IEP program into becoming a freshman at the university. “Ummah” was written for his English 101 class in his first semester at WCU. To progress from the most basic level of learning a language to becoming an award-winning and published writer in two years is quite an accomplishment. We, your former teachers, are very proud of you, Muhned Aljaizani. For the sake of us readers, please continue writing.

Forrest Caskey, *Writing instructor*





IEP Saudi Students Make Classroom Visit to Summit Charter

On a clear day in October, the IEP's advanced-proficiency class, made up of five students from Saudia Arabia, traveled south on U.S. 107 to make an ambassadorial visit to Summit Charter School. The Saudis would be met by an engaging and inquisitive group of seventh-graders who had spent the previous week learning about Islam and Saudi culture with teacher Amie Brock.

Eager to meet – and not just read about – students from Saudi Arabia, the young Summit students sat attentively in a semicircle around the Saudis and took turns asking questions. It became clear that the reserved and mannerly Summit students

had done their homework on the culture and religion of their IEP guests, asking thoughtful questions, such as “Have any of you ever made a hajj?” Our IEP students responded graciously in a panel-style format and discussed a range of topics from the price of oil to the use of technology in Saudi Arabia. Saudi currency was passed around the room and inspected before winding up in the pocket of an American student – much to his delight and perhaps the envy of his classmates.

Soccer and video games proved to be the hot topics of the day, perhaps stirring the most enthusiasm from both American and

Saudi students. As talk of sports and hobbies increased, the young students drew closer to the panel of Saudis, the laughter became louder and the division of students blurred.

The visit culminated with a souvenir for the American students: their American names carefully written in Arabic by the Saudi students. Beaming with a mixture of excitement and pride, the seventh-graders studied the Arabic flow of their names that scrolled from right to left across their papers, tracing the script with their fingers and comparing their names with those of their friends.

Study in Kenya, Jamaica, South Africa Continues in Popularity *continued*

Cyndy Hughes and Al Kopak in criminal justice will travel to South Africa over an extended spring break to visit sites of significance related to apartheid and the global effort to end it (including Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for nearly three decades before being elected as the first post-apartheid president in the country's history) and to examine social conditions in the country two decades after the social policy was finally brought to an end. Dr. Katarina Spasovska is offering courses in mass communication in Macedonia and Kosovo that explore the ins and outs of travel writing and that examine the role of journalism in a multiethnic society. Dr. George Ford will for the first time offer a travel course from the Kimmel School of Construction Management

and Technology. He and his students will examine the intersection of culture and construction practices throughout the United Kingdom. And Professors Bethany Davidson and Debra Burke will offer students the opportunity to learn firsthand about the regulatory guidelines and the case law related to the cruise industry as they explore Canada and New England by cruise ship.

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, at cbryant@wcu.edu or in 109-H Camp Building.

Claudia Bryant | Assistant director of International Programs and Services



Latest Study Abroad Fair Largest Ever

The sixth annual Study Abroad Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 18, was the largest one ever with 450 students in attendance and representatives from study abroad programs from around the world. Representatives from Ecuador, Italy and the Japanese Consulate from Atlanta were some of those with information tables who came to WCU. The majority of the tables were represented by international students here at WCU on study abroad exchange programs as well WCU students who had returned from studying abroad and were excited to share their enthusiasm for study abroad with their fellow classmates.





Trip to British Isles Lays Groundwork for Anthropology Course (and Marriage)

From Oct. 13-19, Dr. Jane Eastman (anthropology-sociology) Dr. Cheryl Johnston (anthropology-sociology) and John Schweikart (international programs) visited Late Stone Age (Neolithic) monuments in Ireland, Scotland and England in preparation for a May 2013 minimester, faculty-led course on the Neolithic landscapes of Ireland and the British Isles to be offered by Eastman.

The purpose of this trip was to establish contacts with museums and university partners and gather information in order to develop an experiential and immersive study abroad program for WCU anthropology students.

Highlights of this trip included a glorious visit to the World Heritage Sites of Knowth and Newgrange in Ireland; meeting with Julie Gibson, the county archaeologist for the Orkney Islands and lecturer in archaeology for the MA archaeological practice at Orkney College; being transformed by the magic of Maes Howe,



the Ring of Brodgar, and the unbelievable preservation at Skara Brae and the entire landscape of Orkney; sleeping in a haunted bed and breakfast in Aberfoyle; seeing our friends and colleagues at the University of Portsmouth; meeting Ruth Butler, education coordinator at the fabulous Salisbury Museum; and taking in the breathtaking landscape and ancient monuments of the Salisbury Plain, including Stonehenge and Silbury Hill.

What also truly made this fact-finding trip so special was meeting John Epps, renowned Scottish country dancer and champion archer, who (successfully) asked Eastman for her hand in marriage at the conclusion of our tour. To both John and Jane, our warmest congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful life together!

For more information about the upcoming Neolithic May-mester course, please contact Eastman at jeastman@wcu.edu.

STUDY ABROAD



NGO Supports Travel of WCU Students, Staff to China *Continued*

The CCC selected WCU students Ellison Henry, Sam Meeks and Chloe Jeffries along with Kevin Childers, a student support specialist from the Office of International Programs and Services, to be one of three supervisors to oversee all students selected from across the state. Childers had the opportunity to meet with university representatives at Xinjiang University in Ürümqi and at Yili Normal University, with hopes to develop a cooperative exchange agreement with both universities.

The trip included field trips to exotic and natural scenic and historic sites in Xinjiang, some classroom instruction in Chinese language, art and culture, as well as cross-cultural communication and diversity in Xinjiang Uygur culture, history and society.

Sites included the Heaven Lake of Tian Shan (or Tianchi), a glacier-fed lake set 6,600 feet above sea level and at the north-side base of Bogda Feng (17,864 feet in elevation), which is part of the eastern Tian Shan mountain range; Turpan, an oasis-county level region and city southeast of Ürümqi, capital city of Xinjiang; a visit to the Jiaohe Ruins, a thriving city along the Silk Road between the years 108 BC to 450 AD; a visit to the famous “Flaming Mountains” east at the city of Turpan; a three-day visit to Ili (Yili) Prefecture in northernmost Xinjiang, the only Kazakh autonomous prefecture of PR China; multiple spots within the capital city of Ürümqi; and more.

Before returning to the U.S., most of the group that experienced the three-week

exchange in Xinjiang also had several days to tour Beijing, including excursions to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, as well as short tours to other notable spots within the city.

Since 2009, the CCC has administered educational and cultural exchange programs to promote cross-cultural understanding and peace for students enrolled full time in a high school or college in North Carolina or China. Such exchange programs enable North Carolina students to travel to select regions in China in order to experience and explore the diverse Chinese culture and society as well as to help bring students from China to become more familiar with the U.S. educational system and to better understand U.S. culture and values.



Visits to Sites Abroad Could Mean Greater Collaboration

From Sept. 28 to Oct. 6, 2012, Dr. Mark Wilson and Professor Brittanina Bintz of WCU's forensic science program made sites visits to WCU partners – the applied sciences program at Avans University in Breda, The Netherlands, and to the forensic science program at the University of Glamorgan, at the Upper Glyntaff Campus in Wales. During this site visit, Wilson and Bintz also visited the Netherlands Forensic Institute in The Hague, and they both gave guest lectures to a crime science evidence class at Avans. As a result of these two site visits we anticipate greater opportunities for collaboration between WCU's forensic sciences program and these two exchange partners including, but not limited to, increased opportunities for student exchanges, as well as faculty research collaborations.





Nursing Students, Faculty Find Jamaica Spring Break Trip Rewarding

The nursing faculty and 17 nursing students who went with the WCU group to Jamaica over Spring Break break want to thank the WCU community one more time. As we went with all your donated supplies to the southern part of Jamaica, we were greeted with such kindness from the Jamaican people. When we took the brown and black shoes for the children to the lady collecting them, she sat down and cried! The boys

home greatly appreciated the flip flops and sheets. We participated in their sports day while there. The staff at the clinics bonded quickly with all of us and they so appreciated the supplies donated. Several students wrote in their journals that it was the best experience for them personally and they would be better people because of reaching out to the people of Jamaica. Thank you once again for your support.

Former Secret Agent Makes WCU a Stop on His Book Tour

The Office of International Program and Services and the WCU Department of Forensic Science recently welcomed author and activist Steve Moore to WCU for International Education Week 2012.

Moore spent 25 years as an FBI special agent and supervisory special agent. FBI work took him to more than 40 states and to 20 foreign countries and U.S. territories. He has worked in the largest FBI offices and the smallest, working cases from remote American Indian reservations to car bombings of U.S. embassies. Steve's wide experience base allows him to provide insight on the FBI life, from hazardous undercover operations to his years as a SWAT "operator." Whether he was flying FBI helicopters on classified

operations or investigating Al Qaida cells in Pakistan, his experiences paint a picture of FBI operations few have seen before. Upon his retirement, Moore has dedicated pro bono time to the cases of Americans imprisoned abroad, including Amanda Knox (Italy), Jacob Ostreicher (Bolivia) and Jason Puracal (Nicaragua). He is a frequent commentator on CNN and other major media news organizations. His humor, storytelling, anecdotes and humble style result in an educational and informative presentation for schools and organizations that are training students and staff about global intelligence, Homeland Security, law, government and anti-terrorism efforts. Moore is based in California.

Moore was on tour to promote his recently published book, "Special Agent Man: My Life in the FBI as a Terrorist Hunter, Helicopter Pilot, and Certified Sniper." The book gives a firsthand account of a career in the Federal Bureau of Investigation from the academy to retirement, with exciting and engaging anecdotes about SWAT teams, counterterrorism activities and undercover assignments. With honest, reticent humor, Moore's narrative details both his successes and mistakes, as well as the trauma the job inflicted on his marriage, his triumph over the aggressive cancer that took him out of the field for a year, and his return to the bureau with renewed vigor and dedication.



WCU gamelan music is now available on CD! Gamelan Gunung biru, the college/community ensemble of WCU's gamelan program, has released a 40-minute CD of gamelan music from West Java. The CD features guest artist Burhan Sukarma, one of the world's foremost players of the suling, a small bamboo flute. The concert was recorded at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Asheville in June 2010. The CD liner features extensive notes about the music and photographs of the instruments. The new CD is available at the university bookstore for \$10. Proceeds from sales will help to offset the costs of distributing the CD for free to public schools in North Carolina.