

News

Faculty members visit Africa

By Stephanie Hunter
Staff Writer

Two UNCA faculty members returned in January from Malawi, Africa, one of the 10 poorest countries in the world as part of a Fulbright Scholarship. The scholarship, which is a program in conjunction with the U.S. State Department and U.S. Information Service, sends scholars all over the world.



Dolly Mullen

Dwight Mullen, associate professor of political science, and his wife Dolly Jenkins-Mullen, lecturer in political science, spent the past year in Malawi, a country in the southern part of Africa.

The Fulbright Scholarship made this trip possible for the Mullens. "The Fulbright program is part of the U.S. State Department and U.S. Information Service. They send scholars all over the world," said Mullen.

The scholarship offers an exchange program. The Mullens lived in Malawi for a year, and a physician from Malawi now works at Emory College as a result of this scholarship, said Mullen.

A political science department failed to exist in the universities in Malawi because the country had just come out from under a dictatorship, said Jenkins-Mullen. Mullen taught a political theory course and a course in public policy, and Jenkins-Mullen taught in public administration and international relations.

"The University of Malawi is made up of several campuses, and the campus we were on was called Chancellor College. It was like the Chapel Hill of Malawi," said Mullen.

The Mullens noted many differences between the United States and Malawi. The student population of this college only totaled approximately 1,500 students, said Mullen.

During their year in Malawi, the university received about 20,000 applicants for only 400 available spots, said Mullen.

"The university is set up based on a British model, not an American model," said Jenkins-Mullen.

Overall, the university tends to be much more formal when compared to American universities, said Mullen.

With a less interactive nature, the Mullens had a difficult time getting students to discuss issues in class, said Mullen.

Unlike UNCA, the unavailability of textbooks caused the University of Malawi to place a much greater emphasis on the lecture format, said Mullen.

Before entering college, students must pass an exam, said Mullen. The student gets placed in a department based on exam results, said Jenkins-Mullen.

Not only did the Mullens teach classes at the University of Malawi, they also conducted research and met with many government officials and acted as consultants and advisors, said Mullen. The issues that Mullen researched dealt primarily with democratization and political development.

Also while there, Jenkins-Mullen acted as a consultant and advisor for a meeting of women from different political parties.

This represented the first type of meeting of this sort ever held in this country, said Mullen.

Despite the many differences in their work that they had to get accustomed to, social differences also arose.

The slow-paced lifestyle and the beautiful, temperate climate will be missed, but "the poverty was hard to deal with," said Jenkins-Mullen.

With an average income of \$210.00 a year, Malawi's poverty resembles very little of the poverty in America.

"A lot of people do not wear shoes," said Jenkins-Mullen. "There was a lot of sickness and a lot of malnutrition," said Mullen.

"I heard a statistic that said a child in that part of the world has a greater chance of dying then entering primary school," said Jenkins-Mullen.

AIDS represents another struggle that faces Malawi, said Mullen. "The government estimated that 25 percent of the university students were HIV positive, but everyone else said it was much higher than that," said Mullen.

"We were in the buckle of the AIDS belt," said Jenkins-Mullen. People did not want to talk about AIDS.

However, being surrounded by this disease led to an awareness of who had AIDS, said Jenkins-Mullen.

Personality traits may influence TV watching

(CPS) - You are what you watch, suggests a new study by a University of Florida researcher.

An energetic guy is more likely to watch "Hard Copy" after a tough day at work, while the stereotypically lazy guy will watch videos on MTV for hours on end, said Cynthia Frisby, a UF advertising doctorate student.

"My study determined that a link exists between program choice and personality type," said Frisby.

Frisby surveyed 289 people spanning a wide range of ages, education and income.

The subjects answered questions relating to five major personality traits: openness, extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness and emotionality/neuroticism.

Frisby found the subjects' personality types not only influenced what television shows they watched, but also why they watched them.

Most groups of people in the study watched TV primarily for entertainment and escape reasons. But certain types of personalities were drawn to certain types of shows.

Hostile or rude people tended to watch situation comedies for information, Frisby said. "This could be because they are unable to interact socially with people," she said.

Extroverts tended to tune in frequently to soap operas and news magazine shows. Unenergetic people reported watching music videos often and emotionally related talk shows.

The results of Frisby's study could be useful to advertisers. For example, if people are sitting down to watch "Seinfeld" each week primarily to be entertained, an informative car commercial may not be work well with the audience.

"If we can define these shows by personality types, advertising could be much more effective," said Frisby.

THE BANNER WEEKEND WEATHER

Rain will arrive this weekend and temperatures will dip below freezing.

FOR ASHEVILLE
Fri. 43/32 cloudy
Sat. 44/28 rain
Sun. 44/24 partly cloudy

TRAVEL FORECAST
ATLANTA
Fri. 53/37 rain
Sat. 52/33 rain
Sun. 49/26 partly cloudy

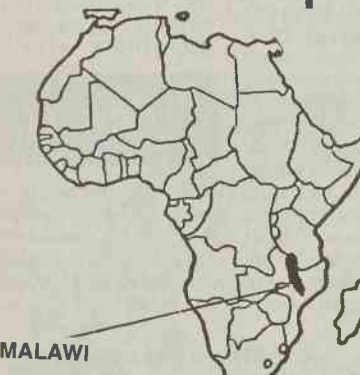
CHARLOTTE
Fri. 48/35 cloudy
Sat. 47/32 rain
Sun. 49/29 partly cloudy

GREENSBORO
Fri. 46/34 cloudy
Sat. 46/29 rain
Sun. 46/26 partly cloudy

KNOXVILLE
Fri. 46/36 partly cloudy
Sat. 40/29 partly cloudy
Sun. 38/17 partly cloudy

Weather information courtesy of the National Weather Service

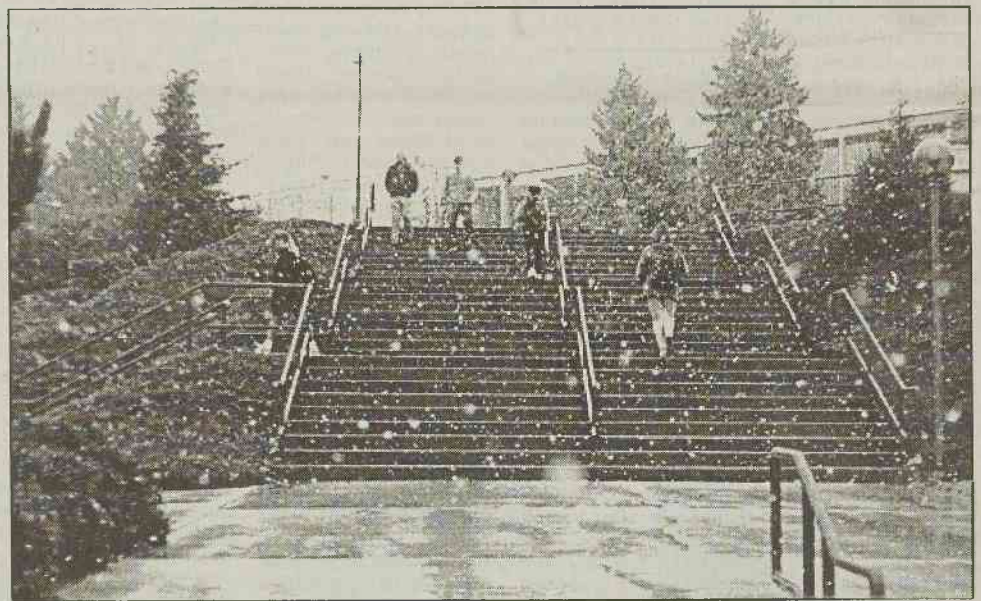
Republic of Malawi



Area: 45,747 square miles
Population: 8,556,200
Capital: Lilongwe, pop. 220,000
Languages: English, Chichewa
Religions: Christianity, traditional
Currency: Kwacha
Climate: subtropical
Main exports: tobacco, tea
Britain ruled Malawi from 1891 to 1964. Malawi became a republic in 1966 and instituted a one-party system of government.

SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS, ACADEMIC AMERICAN ENC.

Unexpected snow



Students were surprised to find snow falling most of Monday. The lack of accumulation was disappointing to many.

Berkeley student cracks encryption code

(CPS) - It took Berkeley graduate student Ian Goldberg only three and a half hours to crack the most secure encryption code that the federal government allows U.S. companies to export.

On Jan. 28, RSA Data Security Inc. challenged anyone on the Internet to decipher an encrypted message with electronic key lengths ranging from 40 to 265 bits.

In general, companies use encryption codes to secure sensitive material, such as credit card numbers.

The 265-bit technology is the hardest to decode, but the U.S. government allows no more than 40-bit encryption so that authorities can decode material if necessary.

But the challenge, as RSA Data Security Inc. had hoped, showed that any kid with access to a computer network can crack the low-level 40-bit codes.

Within hours of the contest's start, Goldberg had figured out the code by linking together 250 computers in Berkeley labs and testing 100 billion possible solutions, or "keys," per hour.

That's something like safecracking by trying every possible combination at a high speed.

When Goldberg finally unscrambled the challenge message, it read: "This is why you should use a longer key."


Goldberg won \$1,000 for the effort, and RSA Data is interested in hiring him as a summer intern.

"This is the final proof of what we've known for years: 40-bit encryption technology is obsolete," Goldberg said.

This isn't the first time the student has made headlines. In the fall of 1995, he and other members of a Berkeley computer security research group found a major security flaw in Netscape's web browser.

UNCA African American Student Development Underdog Productions & African American Student Association Present

Lawrence Otis Graham



Speaking at UNCA on race relations. Nationally known lecturer, Harvard educated lawyer and author of Member of the Club and Provusity.

"Lawrence Graham clearly knows about the pressures of being beholden to two very different groups."
-Los Angeles Times

Thursday, Feb. 13th
7 p.m.
UNCA Highsmith Center
General Admission \$5 at door Students/Faculty/Staff - Free Reception & Book Signing / Refreshments
Information: (704)251-6674/6671

UNCA BOOKSTORE

GRADUATE SALUTE

The Class of 1997

ATTENTION!

A One - Stop graduation preparation event in Highsmith Center Lounge

Wed., March 19 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Thur., March 20 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sponsored by: Registrar's Office, Alumni Office and the Bookstore