

Students learn and take pilgrimage with a new study abroad program

by HEIDI BING

News Editor

The university will be offering a new study abroad opportunity to students during the Summer Session I, which will allow them to learn about the Spanish language and culture while taking a pilgrimage across northern Spain to the revered city of Santiago de Compostela.

Spanish 294-10: Intermediate Spanish for Travelers will be instructed by Valerie Rider. The class will spend one week at UNCW in classroom instruction concentrating on traveling in Spain then depart for a month in Spain.

"For that week students will be learning Spanish that is heavy on traveling vocabulary," Rider said, noting that students will be concentrating on vocabulary pertaining to travel, nature, and hiking and they will study the history and culture of the route they will be journeying.

The class will then fly to Madrid and take a train in to the Pyrenees Mountains and cross the border into St. Jean Pied-de-Port, France where they will begin a backpacking pilgrimage westward to Santiago de Compostela.

"Along the way, we'll travel through big cities such as Bilbao and Leon which have some of the most beautiful cathedrals in the world," Rider said. "Students are going to get a real cultural experience from visiting these big cities and the smaller towns."

The journey to Santiago de Compostela is a pilgrimage that has been traveled for over 1,000 years. The journey is called "el Camino" which means "the road" or "the way" and Rider explained that the term refers to both the way to the city of Santiago de Compostela or "the way to enlightenment." The city's name means "St. James of the field of stars" and it is reputed that the remains of the patron saint James who was one of Jesus' apostles are buried in the city.

"There is an absolutely exquisite cathedral there which houses what are reputed to be the relics of St. James," Rider said.

During their travels, students will stay in "refugios" which are simplistic shelters erected for travelers on the pilgrimage. These refugios are located in various locations, and some of them are located in monasteries run by monks. Students will visit the towns they stay in during the day to observe the varying cultures and interact with Spanish citizens.

"The people who live along the route have for centuries treated the pilgrims that pass their way with total hospital-

ity," Rider said. "There is a mentality that the people have that stresses hospitality toward the pilgrims because of the idea that travelers could be angels or the Lord himself and the people wouldn't know it...so they have always extended the hand of friendship."

Pilgrims who have walked over 60 miles to reach Santiago de Compostela, are issued a "compostela" from the city, which is a Latin document commemorating their achievement.

"This document is the most meaningful memento you could get," said Rider, whose class will journey far more than 60 miles during their month of travel. "It basically certifies that you have done the pilgrimage just like the pilgrims of old did...its something people really strive for."

Rider believes it is important for students to not only study a culture, but to also experience it firsthand.

"Classroom instruction is great...but with the way our classes go, there is only so much language, culture and history you can soak up," Rider said. "When you finally leave the confines of the four-wall classroom and go someplace else where you are living and breathing it, your ability with the language is going to [increase] along with your appreciation for other people and their way of life...its priceless."

The estimated cost for the trip is \$2,850 which includes tuition and fees for three credit hours of study, round-trip airfare, transportation while in Spain, lodging, meals, insurance, and the cost of an international student ID card. A \$200 deposit/application fee is due on Monday, February 14.

Students can get information and applications by contacting Rider at 962-3341 or by e-mail at riderv@uncwil.edu. Students can also go by Rider's office in room 235 of Morton Hall during her office hours on Wednesdays from 12 - 2 p.m. Brochures describing the trip are posted outside of Rider's office. Applications are also available at the Office of International Programs in room 103A of the University Union.

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Past UNC presidents oppose proposed tuition, fee hikes

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) - Opposition to a proposed tuition increase and a new capital projects fee to be paid by all University of North Carolina students has drawn opposition from two former UNC system presidents.

Past president C.D. "Dick" Spangler said the money needed for faculty salaries and building improvements should come from taxpayers instead of students.

Former president Bill Friday also has opposed tuition hikes.

Spangler's comments were published Saturday in The Charlotte Observer after the UNC Board of Governors indicated approval for the proposals during a Friday meeting in Wilmington.

"The state can afford a first-class university, and I believe it's wrong to tax the students," Spangler said.

"I've never heard a poor person ask for tuition to be increased. I've had numerous members of country clubs say we could charge more, which I translated as meaning they would have to pay less taxes. And many of them benefited from low tuition. ... You just can't get around the fact that what has been done has worked."

Spangler vigorously resisted efforts while he was president of the 16-campus university system to raise tuition.

Residents of North Carolina pay some of the lowest tuition in the nation to attend public colleges. Low tuition is a principle contained in the state Constitution and has guided the university system for two centuries.

But without more money for building faculty and academics, the system's danger of losing its edge and national reputation as a university system President Molly Broad said to the Board of Governors.

Many members of the board said they didn't know what else to do because state funds have been cut already to pay for relief efforts after Hurricane Floyd.

"The money has to come from somewhere. I don't think we have a choice," said Addison Bell, a Charlotte businessman and board member.

The board is scheduled to vote next month on the plan.

Mrs. Broad is seeking to raise tuition 2.1 percent next year for all students. They also pay a new student fee of \$100 next year which would grow to \$275 in three years.

N.C. State and UNC-Chapel Hill students also would pay an extra \$200 in tuition next year.

Broad wants to ask legislators to raise the money, so the university system can finance up to \$750 million in high priority projects.

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