

# UNC students help orient international students to campus

By **BILL LOGAN**  
Staff Writer

UNC upperclassmen and graduate students have the opportunity to help international students become comfortable with life in Chapel Hill through The Campus Friends program sponsored by the International Student Center.

"It's very simple," said Mary Scholl, coordinator of the program. "The students who volunteer will meet their international student at a breakfast on August 15. Then, depending on the specific needs of the international student, they will help him with things like campus orientation, setting up checking accounts, buying textbooks, catching buses, etc."

"These things may seem very simple, but they can be complex and confusing to someone who has never been in America and may not be used to speaking English."

The only obligation for the volunteering students is that they plan to arrive in Chapel Hill in time to attend the breakfast, Scholl said. After the breakfast, the volunteers will have no set schedule and they can plan subsequent meetings around each other's schedules, she said.

## Computer labs are open

By **LINDA SHEALEY**  
Staff Writer

The Microcomputing Support Center operates six staffed computer labs where UNC students and faculty have free access to IBM and Apple Macintosh personal computers and may receive free instruction.

The MSC has centers in The Undergraduate Library, Venable Hall, Caldwell Hall, The Health Sciences Library, Phillips Hall and has personal computers in eight dormitories. Most departments have the convenience of being able to use the computer centers in their buildings for grading and class instruction, said Ann Parker, director of the MSC.

Reservations are not required to use the centers, although the facilities may be used by professors for their classes during some hours. The facilities and most of MSC's services are free to students and staff. There are lab assistants to help beginners learn how to use the equipment in the Undergraduate Library, Venable Hall, and Health Sciences Library centers, Parker said.

The facilities are open during regular hours during both summer sessions, although fewer lab assistants will be staffing the centers this summer.

Instructional classes will be offered during the summer in various aspects of microcomputing, and are free and open to all UNC students. A microcomputing class on the basics is currently being taught in Venable 8-9:30 a.m. week days, she said.

The MSC offers other free services to University students and staff. The User Support system in the Ram's Shop located in Student Stores is open to help those who are unfamiliar with the IBM PC-write program, Macintosh word processing software and other programs. The system also provides answers to

Volunteer Myra Best said she became involved in the program as a way to practice her Italian. It was well worth the invested time, she said. She has helped three international students since last fall, one from Italy and two from mainland China. It has helped her to better understand different cultures as well as allowing her to share her culture with the foreign students, she said.

"It is exciting to take two mainland Chinese to MacDonald's and watch them order a Big Mac," Best

said. "It also makes you look at America from a whole new perspective as you see the things that these students notice on campus. It made me proud of America."

Jehan Arulpragasam, an international graduate student from Italy, was befriended by Best. "It is hard for graduate students to meet people," he said. "Myra showed me around, pointed to various community places, bus stops, and other necessary services, as well as inviting me to go out places with her and

her friends.

"I got comfortable with the University and was able to meet people too. Myra and I are great friends now."

Best said students with a lesser command of English really need help, which takes a great deal of patience and inexhaustible kindness.

"Jehan had been to the United States before and could speak English pretty well, so he didn't have much trouble," Best said. "It takes a lot of time, but not so much that

you can't adjust your schedule.

"It takes an effort to call them (the international students) and take them out with you to parties and things but since they have so little first hand contact with American culture, they depend on you. It's exciting."

Students who are interested in Campus Friends can obtain information by calling the International Center between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 962-5661, or just coming by the center in Room 065A of the Student Union between these hours.

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