

# System-Wide Exchange Broadens University's Study Abroad Options

BY JEANNE FUGATE  
EDITOR

You know you're dealing with a different culture when the agenda is set to end at 13:15. A dozen UNC-system students will get to experience this culture in a few months through a new system-wide foreign exchange program with Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

A UNC-system committee met Monday — until 13:15 — with BW representatives to sign an unprecedented system-wide exchange program.

The exchange program agreement, effective July 1, would involve all 16 UNC-system institutions and all nine institutions in the Ministry of Science and Research of the State of Baden-Württemberg.

The UNC Exchange Program, as the new program will be called, has composed a tentative statement of purpose.

"The purpose of UNC-EP is to establish and facilitate the regular exchange of students between UNC institutions and overseas institutions," according to a statement issued May 30.

Richard Linton, UNC-system vice-president for research, said, "The programs are really meant to complement existing programs."

This fall, 12 or 13 North Carolina students will go to seven BW institutions. In their place, 24 German students will attend classes at UNC and six other UNC-system institutions. Linton said eventually up to 30 students from each country would be participating annually in the program.

UNC already has an extensive foreign exchange program. John Florin, chairman of the Geography Department and mem-

ber of the University Council on International Programs, said, "Study Abroad at Chapel Hill is fairly widely spread."

Each year, about 500 UNC students choose from close to 80 study abroad options. Approximately 100 foreign exchange students study at Chapel Hill each year.

Linton said for large institutions such as UNC, the benefit of the program does not lie in increased opportunity, per se, but a greater range of choices. "This would greatly broaden the scope," he said.

Because next year will be a transitional year for the system-wide agreement, most participants will come from institutions with existing agreements, such as UNC.

"Most of the students will come from those (universities) with bilateral agreements," Linton said. "By the second year, it would be open throughout the system."

The UCIP has already prepared a first draft of a state-to-state exchange program that will replace the current bilateral — or one-on-one — agreements.

Charles Lyons, director of International Programs at UNC-Greensboro, said the committee would present a final draft to the UNC Board of Governors in the fall.

Other states have similar state-wide exchange programs. The Connecticut system hires a full-time administrator for system-wide international programs. A central administrator would be increasingly necessary for the UNC system if it expands its system-wide exchanges.

Linton said other multi-institutional exchanges, like the one approved Monday by UNC and BW officials, were in the works. "We've talked to other system-wide institutions," he said. "But it's kind of early to talk about that now."

# History Conference Called 'Best Berks Yet'

■ This year marked the first time the conference had been held outside the Northeast.

BY AMY VANDERCLUTE  
STAFF WRITER

Memorial Auditorium was filled nearly to capacity for the opening session of the 10th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, hosted by the University last weekend.

The conference marked a milestone in University history by coinciding with the twentieth anniversary of the Department of Women's Studies at UNC.

At the opening session, Provost Richard Richardson welcomed the conference attendees, who were almost all women.

Knowing that this was the first time that the conference had been held outside of the northeast, Richardson also commended the attendees on the "courage and commitment it must have taken" for them to venture into the south.

Barbara Harris, a professor in the women's studies department and a planner of the event, estimated that two-thirds of the scholars in attendance had "never

been south of the Mason-Dixon line, except maybe to D.C."

Harris, herself, moved to North Carolina from New York in 1989.

Harris has since become a self-proclaimed UNC "propagandist."

Charlotte Borst, a history professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said she was glad the conference was held in the south this year.

"People need to know that there is culture south of D.C.," Borst said.

Harris praised Annette Madden and Trevaughn Brown of the Friday Center for their efforts in organizing the event.

Harris also said that the program for this year's gathering was excellent.

"I heard some wonderful sessions and heard a lot of new young scholars," Harris said. "In five years, these people are going to be writing the books in their fields."

The keynote speaker at the opening session was Radha Kumar, professor at Columbia University and author of the book "The History of Doing," a study of women in India.

"I was pleased as punch," Harris said about the success of the conference. "Everyone I spoke to said it was definitely the best Berks yet."

# Student Government Holds Educational Budget Meeting

■ Organizers of the meeting encouraged students to write letters to their legislators.

BY KELLY O'BRIEN  
STAFF WRITER

Student Government held a briefing last Wednesday to inform students about the budget process and encourage them to get involved by taking action.

"The purpose was to update, educate and motivate," said Student Body President Aaron Nelson.

"We wanted to provide an opportunity to educate students about the short session budget — how they could get involved and make changes."

Student government wanted to work on a larger scale by recruiting more volunteers.

"We need a lot of manpower right now,"

said Carrie Heise, co-chairwoman of state relations.

The briefing was designed to provide students with information they could pass on to others. Packets of in-depth information were given out which explain why the budget cuts will be damaging to the University and solutions to the problem.

"We envisioned that this meeting would be an educational process for a second tier of students who would then inform a third tier — the general public," said second year graduate student Tom Spiggle.

Organizers of the meeting agreed that it was successful.

About 30 people attended, many of whom belong to other campus organizations.

"They realized the budget will have a great effect on their future and are being active because of it," Nelson said.

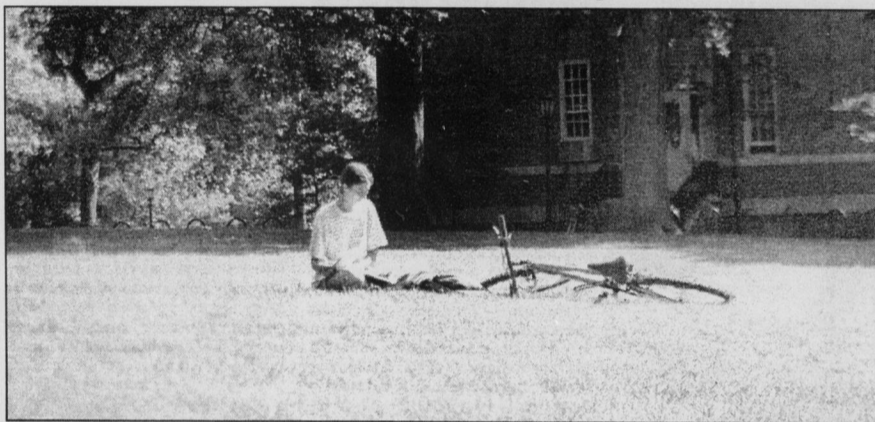
The students were asked to commit themselves to specific tasks in educating people statewide. By writing letters to their hometown newspaper editors and congressmen, students will show legislators that the budget is a significant issue of concern, Spiggle said.

Reyna Walters, assistant chief of staff, said, "Doing something as little as writing a letter or calling can make such a difference."



Student Body President AARON NELSON said the budget affected all UNC students.

# Not So Lazy Summer Days



UNC student Katrina Rapa enjoys the seasonably hot sun in Polk Place while preparing for an upcoming midterm. She has discarded her bicycle in order to better engage in this sedate pastime.

DITH/EMILY ADCOCK

# European Exchange Students To Study American Culture

■ 110 foreign students will spend part of their summer learning in the United States.

BY TANYA K. MERRITT  
STAFF WRITER

You've spent years studying a different language and culture, so what now? For some foreign exchange students, spending the summer in North Carolina is the next step in learning more about the United States.

Nacel Cultural Exchanges has been sending students to the U.S. since 1969. All 50 states have a coordinator who organizes the program for that state.

"Basically, we want to promote foreign language study and international study," said Karen March, the coordinator for North Carolina.

Roughly 110 students will spend four weeks in North Carolina this summer. March gave many reasons why students wanted to come to the U.S.

"Europeans are very culturally aware," she said.

"It's important to learn languages and be exposed to other cultures. They understand, especially the boys, how important

language and culture are when working in business."

The American government also interests the students. For example, one group of students will visit Washington D.C. for two days. "I've never seen kids discuss politics like they do," March said.

March said the students usually know a lot about the U.S. "They are fascinated," she said. "Our movies, television shows and products are over there."

March said the students have to write a letter in English to their prospective host family explaining why they want to visit America. The selection process also requires an application, teacher recommendations and an interview.

Nacel tries to match students with host families that have children of about the same age. While the family and the student get along most of the time, March said problems can arise from translation errors and differences in humor. A chaperon can be called in to work with both parties.

March said the cost of the trip is about \$2,000 plus spending money. Usually, the students foot the bill. This year Nacel, which is nonprofit, decided to give scholarships to help those in financial need.

The host family is responsible for room and board and for "welcoming the student in as one of its own," March said.

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