

Center helps foreign students adjust to UNC

■ The International Center eases students into social and academic life.

BY SARA YAWN
STAFF WRITER

International students experience both American culture and academic life at UNC, and the University's International Center works to bring these students the best of both worlds.

"One of the major issues when they first come is adjusting to American culture," said Jean Hughes, associate director of the International Center.

International students often face a very different academic structure and teach-

ing style, said Jiffer Bourguignon, president of the International Student Association. "A lot of students come here, and they're not used to the workload," she said.

Hughes said homesickness and finances were further concerns for international students.

The International Center offers several programs to help international students in their transition to UNC.

The center helps to familiarize international students with the University and the community through an extensive orientation, Hughes said.

"(The orientation) includes some adjustment issues as well as some information about academics," she said.

The orientation also acquaints students with some of the fun things to do at

UNC and possible activities the students might like to participate in, Hughes said.

Volunteer programs at the International Center pair international students with American students or members of the community for interaction.

Two additional programs, the English Conversation Partners Program and the International Women's Conversation Group, help to improve participants' English skills and introduce them to American culture, Hughes said.

The Speakers Bureau encourages students to share their culture as speakers for various groups. The goal is "to encourage students to go out into the community," Hughes said.

An American family or individual helps to teach an international student about American culture in The Host Fam-

ily/International Friendship Program. The American participants bring the students into their houses for dinner or other events or take them on excursions in the community, Hughes said.

"For American and for international students, the host family program and the English Conversation Partners Program seem to be the most used," Hughes said.

The center's programs and the support of the community are very helpful to international students, Bourguignon said.

"The people are very friendly," she said.

There are currently 952 international students at UNC. The highest percentage of students comes from mainland China, followed by India and Taiwan, Hughes said.

Extra precautions needed before leaving for holiday

■ Most campus break-ins occur the night before students leave for break.

BY CHERRIECE WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Your exams are over, you've packed up your things and you're ready to go home for some rest and relaxation over Winter Break. You do one final check of your worldly possessions and discover that someone made off with your prized walkman and No Doubt CD while you were packing your car.

"Christmas seems to be the biggest problem for people because it's the longest break," said Jane Cousins, spokeswoman for the Chapel Hill police department.

Lt. Angela Carmon, crime prevention officer for University Police, said most on-campus burglaries occurred the night before a break.

Every year, University Police puts out a list advising students on what they can do to avoid being burglarized, Carmon said.

She suggested that students have a friend help them when making repeated trips from rooms to cars and that they not

leave their rooms unsecured. She also said students should securely lock their possessions in the trunks of their cars while returning to their rooms for more luggage.

Cousins advised off-campus students not to leave valuables in their apartments. She also said these students should get timers for their lights, radios and televisions.

Off-campus students should have someone pick up their mail, and they should cancel their newspaper delivery, Cousins said.

"Students should try to make it look like they're at home as much as possible," she said. Cousins said thieves had a tendency to target apartments where they knew students live.

While students are being urged to take precautions for the long break, the season has been safe for students' possessions so far. Both Carmon and Cousins said very few burglaries were reported over the Thanksgiving break.

Cousins said there was no increase over the weekend. "This weekend was no different from any other weekend as far as burglaries are concerned," she said.

Carmon said, "The only burglary I know of was someone trying to break in to a vending machine in the Student Union."

Towns prepare for seasonal celebrations, events

■ Local groups and towns are planning Christmas and Hanukkah events.

BY JULIA WOOD
STAFF WRITER

With Christmas and Hanukkah approaching, local churches and organizations are busy preparing for the holidays with special programs and ceremonies.

The towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro will be holding events to usher in the holiday season.

The Chapel Hill Downtown Commission will hold a holiday tree-lighting ceremony Friday from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. on top of the Rosemary Street parking deck.

Robert Humphreys, executive director of the Downtown Commission, said the event had been held annually for about 10 years.

"The Downtown Commission created the tree-lighting and singing event to be a kickoff for the parade," he said.

Humphreys said the event would start off with an hour of entertainment by church choirs and high school marching bands and culminate with the lighting of the community holiday tree, which will stay lit throughout the holiday season.

The Hillsborough Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding its Tenth Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour on Sunday from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Amy Westbrook, Communications Specialist for the Chapel Hill-Orange County Visitors Bureau, said the tour

highlights historic homes, churches, inns and public buildings.

Westbrook said tickets are available at local businesses. On the day of the tour, ticket holders are to go by the tour headquarters at the Old Orange County Courthouse to pick up a program.

"With the program, they can visit the sites in any order they wish," she said. "The tour is meant for people to enjoy and see the historic area at their leisure."

Mike Scheinberg, Program Director for N.C. Hillel, said the Hillel Foundation will be holding several events celebrating Hanukkah, which takes place from Thursday to Dec. 13.

He said a Hanukkah menorah lighting will be held in the Pit at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, the first night of Hanukkah. On Saturday, the group will hold a special Hanukkah dance from 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. Hillel foundations from around the state have been invited to participate in this event.

"Hanukkah is a time of miracles, so it is also a time of celebration," Scheinberg

said.

Local churches will be holding services to celebrate Christmas in the coming weeks. University United Methodist Church will hold a Moravian Love Feast on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

Sheila Woods, an office worker at the church, said tea and a pastry are served at the feast, and hymns are sung.

"It grew out of a Moravian tradition," she said. "It's a little unusual and very beautiful."

Bob Dunham, pastor at University Presbyterian Church, said his church is doing several service projects during the holiday season. "We are collecting merchandise for families we have adopted," he said.

Other churches are celebrating the season through music. The Chancel Choir at University Baptist Church will be presenting Sleepers, Wake! by J.S. Bach on Sunday at 11 a.m.

All three churches will be holding candlelight Christmas Eve services at various times.

AARONSON
FROM PAGE 1

HIV undoubtedly has changed Aaronson's life in some ways. Her body has undergone drastic physical transformations in the past two years. She has lost 50 to 60 pounds.

But what she hasn't lost is her sense of humor. She jokes with friends that HIV is a great diet.

Sensitive to medication, Aaronson now focuses on spiritual healing. She said she was putting a lot more personal time into exploring the concept of faith.

"I was really stressed about time and how much I have left," she said. "I've become much more of an optimist. Today is today and I'll make what I can of today."

Aaronson still wrestles with her plans for the future, whether to pursue a doctorate degree or to find a job at a community college. Regardless, her goal is to teach.

Some would say she already is. "I see Laurie as very passionate about issues," Thompson said. "She has a real desire to make a difference. She's willing to take risks to educate others."

Campus Calendar

Tuesday

12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. — A free informational program for faculty, staff and students titled "The ABCs of In-home Child Care" will be held in the Toy Lounge of Dey Hall.

UNC parents and parents-to-be will have an opportunity to learn about different home-based child care options, including nannies and au pairs, from representatives of community and private child care agencies. The session is sponsored by the Employment Services Department. For more information call 962-1483.

4 p.m. — New York filmmaker Su Friedrich will present her new film "Hide and Seek" at the Carolina Theater. The presentation is free and open to the public. The event is sponsored by the German Department.

6 p.m. to 7 p.m. — Meredith College will present an information session on the evening degree program for adult women titled "Meredith After 5" at the Kresge B. Park Center on Meredith campus.

7 p.m. — The UNC Young Republicans will present guest speaker Tom Joyner, of the "Tom Joyner Show," in 209 Manning Hall. All students are welcome to attend.

8 p.m. — North Carolina State University will present "First Tuesday Jazz," featuring Bobby Hinton and the Shades of Blue, at the African-American Cultural Center on the N.C. State campus. Tickets are \$5 for general admission, \$3 for students.

Items of Interest

Triangle Hospice's Unicorn Bereavement Center will present "Living with Grief Through the Holidays," a workshop for grieving persons who want to learn more about coping with their grief in an educational setting, on Thursday, Dec. 5 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Unicorn Bereavement Center.

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Unite in hope and show your support for those infected & affected by HIV by attending the following events in honor of

World AIDS Week 1996

December 1-4

Tuesday, December 3

"If Not Us, Then Who?" Resource Day - campus and local organizations will provide information on World AIDS Day and HIV/AIDS in the pit from 10am-2pm.

Confidential HIV Testing - walk-in testing will be available for individuals and groups from 5-8pm in the Wellness Center.

"One World, One Hope" Multicultural Extravaganza - keynote speaker Laurie Aaronson will discuss living with HIV and the Loreleis, CHiSpA, OPEYO, BSM Gospel Choir, Sangam, Harmonics, Unheard Voices, Vietnamese Students Association, and others will perform. A candlelight vigil will follow this event.

A section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed at residential halls Nov. 25 - Dec. 6. Call 962-9701 for details.

UNC-Chapel Hill World AIDS Week T-shirts will be available at the week's events for only \$8.

For more info about World AIDS Week events, please call Student Health Services, Health Education at 966-6586. World AIDS Week is organized by the World AIDS Week Planning Committee & funded in part by the Chancellor's Task Force on AIDS.

Condomgrams will be available throughout the week!

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