

Focus on global issues is key as UNC expands

Plenty of chances to explore culture

BY MEGAN WINTERHALTER
STAFF WRITER

As one of the top public universities in the nation, UNC takes pride in allowing students to go global without ever taking a step off campus.

UNC offers more than 52 foreign languages and 322 study abroad programs, but students don't need to speak the language or even leave the country to experience the cultures beyond Chapel Hill.

Dedicated on University Day, October 12, 2007, the FedEx Global Education Center is the core of the global experience at Carolina.

It houses international and area studies programs for the College of Arts and Sciences, including the Center for Global Initiatives, the Office of International Student and Scholar Services and the Global Research Institute.

The 80,000 square-foot building also hosts a wide variety of cultural events throughout the year, highlighting regions around the world.

In September 2007, the center, along with the department of Slavic languages and literatures, hosted

four award-winning Russian authors as part of a program to inspire international discussion through the arts. The authors participated in readings and a public panel discussion.

Erin Murphy, a sophomore international studies major, recalled attending the event.

"I learned things from this discussion that I could not have learned in the classroom," she said. "It was events like this that sparked my interest to study abroad this summer in Moscow."

The Global Education Center is not the only spot on campus where students can find world culture. The 2008-09 Carolina Performing Arts schedule includes artists from 13 countries including nations such as Austria, Ireland and Singapore.

Performances include The Rite of Spring: Compagnie Heddy Maalem, which is comprised of 14 dancers from across Africa performing Heddy Maalem's interpretation of the Stravinsky/Nijinsky ballet; and Monsters and Prodigies: the History of the Castrati, performed by the Teatro de Ciertos Habitantes

of Mexico City.

Carolina Performing Arts continues to expand internationally, increasing the number of nations represented by seven since 2007.

Beyond attending discussions and performances, UNC also offers students a way to become directly involved with other nations, other than by just studying abroad.

Carolina for Kibera is a nonprofit organization housed in the FedEx Center that fights abject poverty and helps prevent violence through community-based development in the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya, and beyond. Holding various events throughout the year and offering the opportunity to travel to Kenya, Carolina for Kibera provides students not only with an international experience but also with the experience of service learning.

From discussions to service, performances to seminars, UNC presents numerous opportunities for students to reach beyond the traditional facets of the classroom and experience the world, all without leaving campus.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

ITS available for tech help

Many resources at UNC for students

BY MARY KATHERINE AYERS
STAFF WRITER

Whether you can't connect to the campus network, can't quite get that new Wii to work in your dorm room or just spilled milk all over your laptop on the first day of class, Information Technology Services is there to save the day.

And the best part? It's free.

The ITS Response Center, with locations in the basement of the Undergraduate Library and the Student Academic Services Building, is there to help with any technology issue you encounter during your years at UNC.

"We're basically ground zero. Anyone can come ask for technical assistance," said Bruce Egan, director of the ITS Response Center. "We either have the answer or get you to the right people."

Students can get help from ITS in several different ways: by walking into the center or dropping off a computer, calling a 24/7 help line, accessing information on an online help site or contacting the ResNet student in each dorm.

ResNet places students employed by ITS in dorms throughout campus to provide their peers with technology assistance. Students

simply have to walk down their hall to get help, which is nice when your computer crashes at 3 a.m. right before you are about to write that history paper due at 8 a.m.

If ITS can't fix the problem for you, they will do all the legwork necessary to find the right person who can. But ITS encourages students to take action to prevent problems that are difficult to fix.

A complicated problem ITS often encounters is finding lost data. Students damage their computers or the computers crash, and you can lose papers, research and even master's theses.

"That's our Achilles heel," Egan said. "The one thing we don't have control over."

ITS also cannot repair non-Carolina Computing Initiative machine hardware on location. But once again, they can connect you to someone who can.

"When in doubt, just call us," said Ingrid Camacho, the manager of phone services at ITS.

Students also run into problems with illegal use of copyrighted material. If ITS receives a complaint from copyright holders about a particular student, that student can no longer access the campus network.

"We're basically ground zero. Anyone can come ask for technical assistance."

BRUCE EGAN, CENTER DIRECTOR

"We're not the police," Camacho said, adding that ITS will help the students get back into the network and back on track. "We won't judge you."

Egan encourages students to start using their laptops as soon as possible to familiarize themselves with the machines and the programs that come with them.


That way, you can get any questions about your computer answered before classes even start. He said fall is a busy time for ITS, which helps students to get connected on campus — especially those without CCI machines.

Most important, Egan wants students to take advantage of the services that ITS offers.

"There aren't a lot of schools who have anything on this scale," he said. "Just remember we're here and we'll help you out."

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