

GLOBAL NEWS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

A message from the Chair of the SOE International Committee

Thanks to the support of the School of Education (SOE), the university, and our local and global community partners, the SOE International Committee had a great year hosting and participating in a number of events with international students, visitors, and scholars. We have lots more to plan and look forward to in 2017!

Jane

Highlights

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If you have a story or an event to share, contact jill.chouinard@uncg.edu



International Social
Please join us as we welcome our international students, scholars, and visitors on campus. If you would like to **bring a dish to share**, please email Jeongae Kang (j_kang2@uncg.edu) by Feb. 1, 2017

Feb. 7, 2017
11:30-1:00 pm
Teaching Resource Center, SOEB



SOE International Committee: What We Do

- **Share resources for internationalization:** The committee strives to enhance the awareness of existing international, national, regional and local resources for internationalization among SOE faculty, staff and students.
- **Promote SOE international collaborative opportunities:** The committee offers resources and support for SOE faculty, staff, and students who are interested in leading and/or participating in study-abroad programs, exchange programs, and other international collaborative teaching, research, and service opportunities.
- **Foster a welcoming and supportive environment for SOE international students, visitors, and scholars:** The committee provides support and network opportunities for SOE international students, visitors, and scholars; and offers education and awareness regarding international access, equity, and support issues

For more information, please visit our website:

<http://soe.uncg.edu/global/>

Who We Are: Current Membership (2016-17)

- Nora Bird (LIS)
- Jill Chouinard (ERM)
- Jewell Cooper (Dean's Office)
- Jacqueline Dozier (Office of Student Services and Advising)
- Colleen Fairbanks (TEHE)
- Ye He (TEHE) *CHAIR*
- Jeongae Kang (Graduate Student, SES)
- Doris Kroiss (TEHE Student)
- Sam Miller (TEHE/SES)
- Nor Othman (ELC)
- Craig Peck (ELC)
- Lori Sands (TRC)
- Jennifer Stephens (Teacher Education Fellows)
- Melody Zoch (TEHE)

The International Committee has had a busy year!

During 2016, SOE hosted two international socials, with one in January and the other in August. We also participated in the UNCG International Festival in April, Asian Autumn Festival in September, and International Education Week in November. During the International Education Week, we hosted a tapestry display activity to engage the campus community in discussions about education in global context. To support international collaboration and explore outgoing opportunities for SOE members, we invited [Dr. Spencer Salas](#), Fulbright Alumni Ambassador, to share Fulbright scholarships and learning opportunities at UNCG. In collaboration with the International Programs Center at UNCG, we also updated our [SOE Global website](#) to offer more information for students considering study abroad opportunities.

We are looking forward to continuing our efforts to support both incoming and outgoing international endeavors for the SOE community. To learn more about SOE international engagement, please check out our [website \(http://soe.uncg.edu/academics/soe-global/\)](http://soe.uncg.edu/academics/soe-global/) and visit the display window in the Mossman building!



Teaching Peace Education Across Cultures

Svi Shapiro, Professor of Educational and Cultural Studies in the department of Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations, recently spent 3 weeks in Poznan, Poland at the invitation of the Adam Mickiewicz University Faculty of Education. While there he taught a seminar on a critical approach to peace education. Participants in the seminar included graduate students as well individuals teaching at the university as well as other educational institutions. The stay in Poland also allowed him to continue conversations on political and cultural developments in EU countries as they grapple with issues of immigration and economic challenges and the rise of extreme right wing social movements and governments.

In June Professor Shapiro has been invited to give a keynote address to a conference on education at the Tel Hai College in northern Israel. He will speak on the challenges to educational policies in the context of neo-liberal politics and the need for a transformational vision of education.



The life of an International Graduate Student from Bhutan

By Ugyen Thinley

I am Ugyen Thinley, an International Student from Bhutan, located in Southeast Asia and sandwiched between two giant countries, China in the north and India in the south. I am currently pursuing my Masters in Library and Information Studies.

I Thank Dr. Michael Phil, vice-dean of Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, for recommending and introducing me to UNCG. He knew about UNCG as he graduated from Chapel Hill. Before coming to Greensboro, I did do a little bit of research about UNCG and know that I have made the right decision choosing UNCG.

When I first arrived in Greensboro, I felt very happy seeing the beauty of Greensboro, its abundant nature and beautiful environment. Nature gives me a positive vibe, motivating me to better focus on what I am doing. I also love walking and, though I am not familiar with the city, it was strange to hardly see any one walking around, neither humans nor animals. I felt a little like an alien from another planet while I was walking, as everyone driving by me was staring. Public transportation is also very limited.



With classes starting, I am getting to know UNCG much more. Everyone is also very welcoming. I especially want to thank Dr. Nora Bird and the International Program Center for guiding me as if I were their child. I also feel that UNCG is like a mini-

world, rich in diverse cultures, with people from all over the world. It also provides a great opportunity for learning and for showcasing our talents, share experiences and learn from each other. I can simply say that UNCG is a cosmopolitan center, with a sense of welcoming that allows people to be who they are.

Initially with my class I experienced a few challenges. English is my second language and I also find that the education system here is so very different from the one where I come from. Fortunately for me, I have had great mentors, professors and classmates. With a little extra effort on my part, I am now starting to feel very comfortable with the education system here at UNCG.

Before I arrived in the USA, I heard that the "United State is the land of Opportunities". Without doubt, I now agree with this. With a little determination, one can achieve great things. With all of these opportunities, it's just a matter of selecting the right one. Lastly, I can now proudly state that I am graduate of UNCG, and no matter what, with UNCG now a part of my life, I will be a good ambassador for UNCG in the future.

The life of an International Graduate Student from Egypt

By Ossama Hassanin

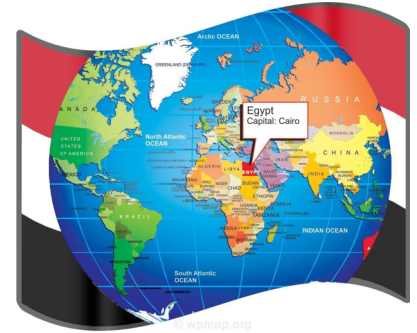
My experience at UNCG has been amazing. As a graduate student, I love the library system the most. It has so many resources and very supportive staff and great library technologies, with six computer laptops and affordable printing is available. I also really like the library hours, as it is open 24 hours a day, five days a week. There is also lots of space available for working.

My classes are good as well. I find the professors helpful and sympathetic, and I really feel that they can understand the challenges that we experience as international students. My advisor, Dr. Nora Bird, is also very supportive and helpful. I feel like she is both a sister and a friend. The international student office staff are also amazing, cooperative and helpful, especially as I need have many questions as a Fulbright student with a visa that has lots of restrictions.

Overall, my experience in the United States is pretty amazing. In the beginning, I had so many challenges, as I was not familiar with the country. I also have three children who are now attending the newcomers school for their first semester and, most recently transferred to a regular public schools. They are still struggling a little bit, but they get a lot of support from everybody. My wife is also studying English twice a week in a nearby school and she is very happy and is doing great.

My biggest challenge is financing, as it is not easy to support a family on such a tight budget. Life in the US is not as affordable as people might think. Almost half of my budget is spent on rent, and about a quarter goes to other bills like water, electricity, and car insurance. I do not like the very strong capitalism system in the United States. Companies and markets affect people's lives so much, and the cost of living is almost not enough to get by on.

Today, I am very much affected by the new administration in the United States banning Muslims from entering the country. I am in an exchange visitor student program and I receive funding from the American government for my education. The goal of this exchange program is to let diverse cultures become more familiar with each other, to understand each other better and to become more unified. I fear that current discrimination is jeopardizing this and moving us backwards.

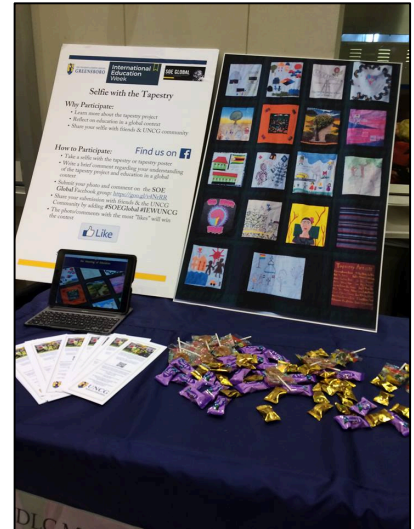


SOE Global Tapestry Selfie Contest

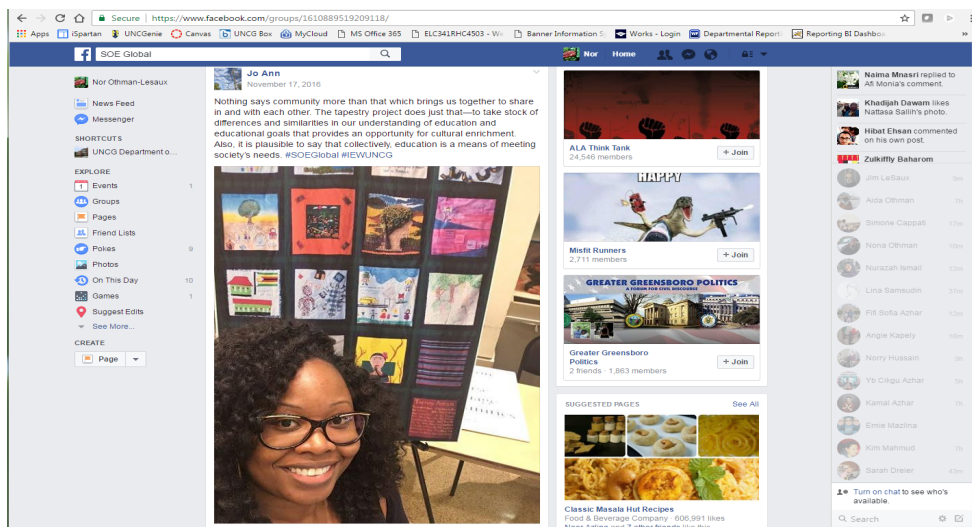
The Tapestry Selfie contest was part of SOE International Committee's #UNCG #IEW2016 activity in which we promoted & created awareness about the "Textured Dialogues: A Tapestry of Immigrant Perspective on the Meaning of Education".

During International Education Week (IEW) November 14 - 18, 2016, SOE International committee members and student volunteers had an information booth in the EUC Commons to inform UNCG students, faculty, visitors and staff about the SOE tapestry project. To encourage understanding & participation, visitors were encouraged to post what they learned about the tapestry on their Facebook pages.

Congratulations to the winners of the #SOEGlobal IEW 2016 Tapestry Selfie contest: Sarah Drier Kasik, Jo Ann and Alyssa Blair.



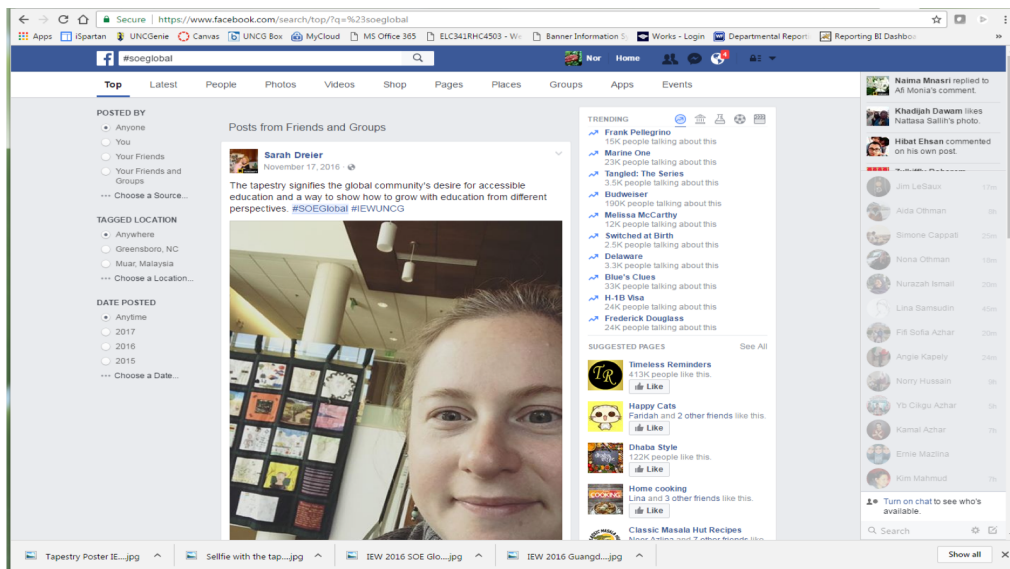
Here are the winning entries:



Jo Ann: *Nothing says community more than that which brings us together to share in and with each other. The tapestry project does just that—to take stock of differences and similarities in our understanding of education and educational goals that provides an opportunity for cultural enrichment. Also, it is plausible to say that collectively, education is a means of meeting society's needs. #SOEGlobal #IEWUNCG*



Alyssa Blair: Thank you SOE Global for using the tapestry project as a way to get more people aware of the immigrant and refugee population in Greensboro! Each picture tells a story. A beautiful story. My time abroad has taught me a lot, but working in the community and actually hearing their stories lets you know how important it is to be culturally sensitive.



Sarah Drier Kasik from HR took a photo with the tapestry hanging in the SOE lobby area: The tapestry signifies the global community's desire for accessible education and a way to show how to grow with education from different perspectives. #SOEGlobal #IEWUNCG

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the student volunteers who helped us with the marketing materials and manning the SOE Global IEW 2016 booth: Morgan Ritchie-Baum, Ashley Hogan, and Summer Drum. But, most of all, thank you to Dr. Nell Pynes, Stephanie Brabec, and Lauren Hudson and everyone at IPC for allowing us to be part of the International Education Week celebration this year.

For more information about "Textured Dialogues: A Tapestry of Immigrant Perspective on the Meaning of Education", please visit: <https://cdlc.uncg.edu/artifacts/>.

