



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

*Our mission is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.*

## Fast Facts ~ May 2013

### Open World Goes to College

April 26 through May 4 was an incredibly busy nine days for FFCNC members and our six guests from Georgia. On Friday morning, April 26 five Open World delegates, all of whom are teachers and/or university administrators, and their facilitator arrived at the Greensboro airport where they were greeted by their hosts and driven to Winston-Salem to settle in and have lunch.



The theme of this, our third Open World program, which dealt with higher education in the US, was threefold: 1.) How academic research can impact public decisions, 2.) An overview of the American educational system, public, private, etc., and 3.) Town-gown cooperation to restore jobs. With that in mind the Open World program kicked off that first afternoon at the Innovations Quarter in Winston-Salem. This is the technology commercialization arm of Wake Forest Medical Center and its top leadership explained to our guests how this organization takes ideas and discoveries that are conceived in our academic and clinical communities and transforms them into valuable commercial products and services.

*The Georgian delegates listen intently as UNCSA staff explain the wig making process. Pictured from l to r are: David Sichinava, Lasha Labadze, Nani Bendelini, Monica Kalandia, Diana Lezhava, Hal Guess (host member) & Nana Macharashvili.*

With the exception of Sunday, the next seven days our guests traveled to every corner of the Triad and visited almost every university and college in our area. Program highlights included:

- A presentation on the similarities and differences of our public and private higher education institutions given by FFCNC member, Tom Lambeth, who has served on the boards of UNC CH, WSSU, and WFU.
- Both a guitar recital and a concert performed by UNC School of the Arts students.
- Visits with a variety of staff at High Point College to share information about interdisciplinary and graduate programs, fundraising, and student/faculty involvement in politics and policy.

- A discussion of the Early College program and continuing education with Guilford College administration.
- Presentations at Guilford Technical Community College regarding education and coordination with local universities, colleges, and businesses.
- A professional session at Bennett College on Course Development and Teaching Methods.
- Discussions at UNCG on graduate education and research in the social sciences.

Sunday, the only free day with host families, found our guests and hosts visiting Biltmore, Seagrove, Reynolda House, and Childress Winery. Both the welcome and farewell meals were well attended by many FFCNC members.



*L to R facing us: David Sichinava, Nana Macharashvili & Lasha Labadze with the liberty bell on the campus of Bennett College.*

The recap session on Friday, May 3, led by Barton Parks, provided valuable feedback as the delegates spoke freely. They found many aspects of the program helpful, citing in particular how the various parts of our education system relate to each other; meeting with the professionals and policy makers at the institutions; the seminars on teaching skills and graduate programs; and the opportunity to see how our educational institutions cooperate with each other. As a group they seemed to have learned a great deal, to be aware of that, and to be appreciative of the program they had experienced. They learned from the formal aspects of the program as well as the informal mentioning the cultural experience of living with host families as one of the major impressions they would take back to Georgia.

As is often the case with in-bound exchanges, FFCNC members who accompanied the delegates commented that they learned as much as the delegates did. It was an eye opening experience for our own members to see the innovative research in technology and science being conducted by our local universities and colleges.

Thanks go to our twelve host families some of whom were new to FFCNC:

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nancy & Percy Russell  | Nancy & Peter Peiffer   |
| Steve & BC Stocksdales | Georgina Kyle           |
| Pam & Steve Karr       | Barbara & Jim North     |
| Gayle & Steve Tuch     | Doris & Ray Kiszely     |
| Sheryl & David Oliver  | Barbara & Hal Guess     |
| Donna & Tom Lambeth    | Dian & Russell Nussbaum |

It is interesting to note that one of our Georgian guests was a bit trepidatious about staying with a host family, preferring a hotel, but quickly grew to realize the value of a homestay.

A great deal of time and effort is required to put together a program such as this. Exchange directors, Peter Peiffer and Barbara North, were assisted by a strong committee of seven: Donna Lambeth, Tim Prout, Doris Kiszely, Barton Parks, Nancy Russell, Hal Guess, and Ralph

Cauthen. Without their efforts the program would not have been, as described by one delegate, "perfect!"

## Spring Travels

Several FFCNC members had the opportunity to travel this spring – visiting old friends and seeing new lands. Here are a few of their stories.

### ***From Peru:***

As many of you know, Ray and Doris Kiszely enjoy taking an annual cruise. This year their itinerary provided the opportunity to reconnect with their Peruvian guests from September 2011. Doris shared the following summary of their visit:

*We did go on a cruise for 18 days but the cruise ended in Callao, which is the port just outside the City of Lima. We stayed with Gaby and Hector Espinosa for four days before going on an 11 day land tour which took us to Paracas, Cuzco, Machu Picchu, Puno and Lake Titicaca to see the floating Islands and then back to Lima to fly home. It was a wonderful trip and one I didn't think I would ever do. If you have any desire to see Machu Picchu or Cuzco, do it while you are young. The altitude was a force to be reckoned with. Our stay in Lima was wonderful. Gaby and Hector were gracious hosts. We were shown the area from the eyes of Peruvians. We went to a lovely restaurant that is right on the Pacific Ocean for a sunset dinner and much to our surprise and enjoyment, we were met there by some of the ladies who had been here with the In Bound group. The ladies were happy that we had visited and again extended an invitation for any of us to visit with them in Lima. It was like a mini family reunion seeing them and catching up on their lives.*



*This group photo was taken at the restaurant. I am not positive of the names but I think they were as follows: Hector Acero, Marianela Aquilar, Ray Kiszely, Maria Olano, Doris Kiszely, Gaby Espinosa, Lenor D'Olmos Sanodval, Luisa Jesus and Vilma Merino.*

## **From Cuba:**

In April 2013 Jim and Barbara North joined a program sponsored by Grand Circle Foundation (a non-profit organization) called "Cuba: Music, Culture and the Roots of Revolution." What follows is Barbara's account of this very unique trip:

*The subtitle of the email read "a People to People"... program - sounded similar to Friendship Force without the home hosting. This 13 day trip provided meaningful cultural exchanges in two unique locales in eastern Cuba: Santiago de Cuba, a seaside city with Afro-Cuban traditions and revolutionary history; and Baracoa, a remote colonial town on a secluded bay along the island's southeast tip. It also included people to people meetings in famous Havana.*



*Upon arrival in Santiago, we witnessed some of the destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy as it crossed Cuba on its way to the U.S. Santiago was the site of the charge up nearby San Juan Hill by Teddy Roosevelt and his "Rough Riders" in 1898 and the 1953 armed assault on Moncado Barracks led by Fidel Castro, which began the Revolution. While in Santiago, we visited with local artists in their studios, met with local fishermen, attended rehearsals of the Ballet Folklórico de Oriente dance company, sang with senior citizens at a senior day care center, and were entertained by a community center children's dance company.*



*After four nights we traveled by bus to Baracoa, a remote coastal town which until 1965 was only accessible by sea. Baracoa was the first Spanish settlement in Cuba established by Velázquez. Our focus here shifted to Afro-Cuban music during a visit to a rural community; at a cacao farm we learned about the harvesting of the cacao seed which is then used to produce the chocolate for which Baracoa is famous; and we were in awe at a local coconut farm where the 92 year old farmer shimmied up a tall coconut tree with his machete to obtain fresh coconuts for our group to enjoy.*

*After three days it was on to Havana via an "antique" Russian-made airplane. We could only pray they maintained their planes as well as they did the old classic cars seen on the roads. The historic streets of Old Havana have been designated a UNESCO*

*World Heritage Site. The game of dominos is a national pastime in Cuba and we tried our luck playing with a local domino club one afternoon. We were most impressed by a visit to Muraleando, a community arts project of colorful murals and various forms of street art. The community purchased a large concrete water tank and remodeled it for use as a neighborhood recreation and art center. After enjoying a meal of locally prepared dishes, we participated in music and dance with the community teen band on top of the water tower under the night stars overlooking the lights of the city.*

*Yes, we saw the old classic cars we have all heard about. We actually rode in a 1953 pink convertible Chevy through the street of Havana one evening. Aside from all the sites, history and music, it is the people we most remember and their perseverance and creativity in dealing with very difficult times. We heard stories from revolutionaries who fought with Castro and were imprisoned; stories of starvation and struggle when the Soviet bloc pulled its economic support from the country in the 90's; and yet the hope of the young people for their future.*

*Times are ever so slowly transitioning in Cuba – people can now own their own home (but only one); they can now start a retail business (but only small and select ones) and they now enjoy more relaxed travel. While socialism has provided housing and free medical care and education for everyone, its economy has failed and many goods and services are very limited. Cuba has continued to survive in spite of our 60 year old US embargo just 90 miles off the U.S. coast and its citizens hope one day it will end.*

**From Romania:**

Martha Brown had the opportunity to visit Romania where her friend, Anne Murray, is teaching at a university in Bucharest this year. The (relatively) close proximity to Chisinau, Moldova provided the chance to reconnect with her Moldovan Open World guest from last fall, Natalia Lipca. Anne is keeping a blog of her experiences in Romania. The following excerpts from it describe a bit of their visit with Natalia:



Natalia Lipca and Martha Brown

*On Friday, Natalia, a friend of Martha's from Moldova, arrived to visit. After a welcome breakfast of American French toast, the two of them went off for the day while I took care of a few other things..... We caught up later that evening at a concert at the Athenaeum, one of Bucharest's most beautiful buildings in my humble opinion.....*

*Saturday Natalia, Martha, and I roamed around downtown Bucharest a bit more. I have passed the urban art depicted in the next two pictures numerous times, but it wasn't until Natalia stopped to talk about it that I really took notice. It is clearly protesting the lack of natural surroundings and the destruction of the environment in building the city (with additional graffiti at the bottom). Natalia has visited Bucharest numerous times and says she especially enjoys seeking out unusual aspects of the city.*



*One of the sights we happened upon - unusual for tourists, but common for the populace - was a baby's baptism. We had gone into the church simply to see its artwork and were invited to observe and even photograph the baptism ceremony. The baby was happy enough playing with the crucifix the priest was waving about, but squalled loudly when undressed for full immersion. I felt lucky to be a part of this family's joy that day.*

If you are interested in reading more about Martha's time in Bucharest and her two day hike in the Carpathian Mountains, visit Anne's blog at [www.ayearinromania.blogspot.com](http://www.ayearinromania.blogspot.com) and check out the entries entitled "Spring Visitors 2."

## **Australian Out-Bound Exchange**

Plans are now complete for our out-bound exchange to Australia July 10 – 26. Eleven ambassadors from FFCNC are registered: Judy Greene, Ray and Doris Kiszely, Barbara and Jim North, Jennie & Gary Ray, Barbara Guess, Karlyn Shankland, Lorrie Guess, and Dorothy Johnson. Our ambassadors will be joined by Anna and Hans Guenther from the FF club in British Columbia making a total of thirteen ambassadors.

All that remains is for the ambassadors to attend the orientation session and pack their bags!

## **Activities Report - World Friendship Day Celebration and Summer LEO**



Our World Friendship Day Celebration at Chef Dion Restaurant in Lexington, NC was attended by a group of thirty-five which included several visitors. Those attending enjoyed an interesting presentation given by Barton and Evelyn Parks about their trip to China.

Our next LEO will be at Marilyn Baird's home at Lake Norman on June 8, starting at 11:00 AM. If one or two FFCNC members would be willing to arrive the night before or early that morning to help set up, Marilyn would appreciate that. If you are available, contact Marilyn at 336-768-2745. Lunch will be catered. Look for an invitation to arrive later this month with all the details.

## **A Gift From Your Board!**

Our FFCNC Board has voted to provide all members with their own Friendship Force name badge with the expense being covered by our club dues. If you do not have a name badge or have an old green badge and would like to have it replaced with the new badge (pictured here), please contact Judy Greene (336-768-1732 or [green111184@bellsouth.net](mailto:green111184@bellsouth.net).) You will need to let Judy know exactly how you would like your name to appear and which kind of name badge you would like (magnetic, bull dog clip, or pin.) Judy will submit our order in time to receive the badges before the Australian out-bound exchange departs in early July.



## **2013 Calendar Highlights**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| June 8       | Picnic at Marilyn Baird's Lake Norman home, 11 AM |
| June 27      | Board Meeting; 11:45 AM; MSUMC; Kernersville      |
| July 10 – 26 | Out-bound exchange to Sunshine Coast of Australia |
| September 5  | Board Meeting; 11:45 AM; MSUMC; Kernersville      |
| October 17   | Annual Membership Meeting; MSUMC; Kernersville    |
| November 7   | Board Meeting; 11:45 AM MSUMC; Kernersville       |