



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

Dog days

Sophomore Elizabeth Hechenbleikner plays with her Sharpei puppy, Winston Churchill, on the Quad.

Spring service trips planned

VSC sending students to seven major U.S. cities during break

By Travis Langdon
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Volunteer Service Corps is organizing its annual Wake Alternative Break program, in which students may spend their spring break as volunteers in one of seven U.S. cities.

The trip, which has been offered for the last seven years, is based on a similar program called Breakaway that is offered at Vanderbilt University.

Last year, however, the Wake Alternative Break officially joined Breakaway, which gave it access to the organization's database.

This system allowed seniors Jeff Alpert, Ross Samchalk and Erin Graves, the program's organizing force, to offer trips to Florida, Washington, D.C. and Charleston, S.C., that were previously unavailable. The other sites on which students can work are in Boston, Oklahoma, New Orleans and South Dakota.

The nature of the volunteers' work varies from site to site, but typical projects include urban poverty, outreach, working with children, helping understaffed schools and environmental projects. The groups will work

with several organizations such as the YMCA, Head Start and The Nature Conservancy.

Each trip is entirely student-organized and run, and groups are usually composed of about ten people.

The volunteers commute to and from the various site locations in vans, and each group is headed by one or two student leaders.

"The student leader takes responsibility of finances, contacting the site to make sure everything is set up and also bringing the group together for a few meetings so that everyone can get to know each other before they leave," Alpert said.

The program has been able to work out free housing with most of the sites at which they are scheduled to work. A group in Florida, for instance, will be camping in a state park each night that it offers its service there.

Although the VSC has not yet determined precisely how much it will cost to participate in the program, it has an estimate that is inexpensive relative to other Spring Break travel.

"We don't know exactly how much the trips cost, but we advertise it as \$150 or less.

The cost goes into money for gas, all of your food and housing when it isn't already provided," Alpert said.

To participate in Wake Alternative Break, students must fill out an application that can be picked up at the VSC office, Benson 345.

The organization feels that the term "application" is somewhat misleading, however, because no one who wants to volunteer is turned away.

The application process is merely used to find out each student's location preference and personal interests so that they can appropriately match up the groups, according to Alpert.

"We ask everyone when they apply to rank the trips that they want to go on, and we try to give everyone their first choice," he said.

"Obviously that's not always possible, but it seems to work out where, even if someone had lukewarm feelings about going on a particular trip, they always come back excited about what they've done. It's a great opportunity for people to do some good work, and have a good time, for a pretty small amount of money," Alpert said.

Speaker notes importance of children's literature

Claudia Highbaugh, the chaplain of Harvard Divinity school, discusses survival of storytelling in age of technology

By Britt Cagle
Contributing Reporter

Stories and myth are still important, even in this age of television sitcoms. On Nov. 5, Claudia Highbaugh, the chaplain and associate director of ministerial studies at Harvard Divinity School, gave a lecture as part of her residency for the Year of Religion in American Life.

Highbaugh began the lecture by emphasizing the ways in which stories of our past shape us, specifically about "religion and faith shaped by story, myth, legend and art as a part of imagination and mystery." She dedicated the lecture, which she called a work in progress, to two librarians who instilled in her the love of reading and books.

The first stories that influenced Highbaugh were

"The Little Engine that Could," and "Mike Mulligan and the Steam Shovel." These stories taught her persistence and a respect for all people and things, she said.

The bulk of the lecture involved children's texts on slavery in the United States, and the ways in which they could be used to form a sense of identity and strength for young children.

The books were *Follow the Drinking Gourd*, *Sara Clara and the Freedom Quilt* and *The People Could Fly*.

All involved the escape of men and women from slavery to freedom and the books were adapted from narratives that had been handed down over hundreds of years.

The number of children's books about slavery has increased greatly and most of the ones read by Highbaugh were published after 1990.

She called for a revival of myth and story in modern life, suggesting that although the stories may not be regarded as historically accurate by some, they still hold rich meaning for the culture that they describe.

life, suggesting that although the stories may not be regarded as historically accurate by some, they still hold rich meaning for the culture that they describe. She pointed out that the distinction between the meanings of the words "myth", "story" and "history" were actually very small and described history as a style of access to the past.

She suggested that whether these accounts held historical accuracy or not, they were valuable as a tool for learning about one's heritage.

Highbaugh encouraged the audience to delve into stories in order to learn more about themselves and said that story and myth could help provide for the development of a strong spiritual basis for faith and leadership for children and youth. She closed the lecture by challenging her racially diverse audience, "What are the stories that give you life?"

Professors examine Germany's diversity

Issues in multiculturalism brought to table

By Brad Gilmore
Business Manager

Will Germany, a multicultural country with a growing number of diverse ethnic groups, be able to meet the challenge of integrating them without erasing their ethnic identities?

This and many other questions were posed at the Eighth Biennial North Carolina German Studies Symposium held Nov. 7 and 8. It was the first time the symposium was held at this university.

The event was sponsored by the university and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

The focus was on how Germany and the United States have dealt with multiculturalism and the difficult task of integrating, but not completely assimilating, old and new immigrants into both country's societies.

The symposium brought together professors from Johns Hopkins, the University of Arizona and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to present papers on multiculturalism.

In addition, Cem Oezdemir, the first German citizen of Turkish descent ever to be elected to the German Federal Parliament, was the keynote speaker.

Oezdemir spoke of his own experiences living in Germany as the son of Turkish parents.

He renounced his Turkish citizenship when he was 16 so that he could vote for the Green Party in the country where he was born and raised.

Today, Oezdemir is fighting to enact reforms in Parliament that would change the current citizenship law and end separate and downgraded schooling for immigrant children.

The reforms would also permit the practice of Islam in state schools, just as Catholicism and Protestantism are allowed, and curb blatant racism.

However, the democratic customs of Germany must be respected as well, according to Oezdemir. "There are fundamentalists who come from Turkey and

"One of the goals of this conference was to reach out into the community not only to students, but to high school teachers as well."

Helga Welsh
Associate Professor of Politics

hold special schools. Young Turkish girls enter and come out brainwashed and wearing a face cloth. This we cannot allow. Women are equal, and living in Germany means that it is necessary to respect that, even if native customs are different," Oezdemir said.

"First-generation Turkish immigrants still believe, even after 40 years, that Germany is not their home. As a result, when the Turkish ambassador visits, they complain of their problems to him. But there is nothing that he can do," he said.

"The only way that changes can be made is through voting and forcing politicians to listen, which many German politicians don't do because they target and listen to those who vote. Immigrants must become citizens so that they can vote and change the system. That is how democracy works."

"One of the goals of this conference was to reach out into the community not only to students, but to high school teachers as well," said Helga Welsh, an associate professor of politics.

"Overall, the attendance was very good, and there was much lively debate," she said.

Issues of European integration including the impact that one European currency will have on the U.S., post-nationalism and common transatlantic values were addressed Saturday.

Professors who presented their papers found that they "complemented one another very well, and three professors have decided that they will try to publish their papers together" said Welsh.



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Gifts from home

Sophomore Mike Wien picks up a package from the Post Office. With exams and the holidays approaching, students anxiously line up for care packages from home.

University to sell former RJR headquarters

Old Gold and Black Staff Report

The university's Corporate Center, otherwise known as the glass "skyscraper on its side" was put up for sale recently. The university decided to sell the building 45 days ago after completing a year-long study of the building.

Currently the corporate center houses several offices of the Pepsi-Cola Co. and BB&T Corp. Several offices of the university's information systems, including the Student Technology Advisers office, are also tenants of the center. These offices will be moved into the new Information Systems building, currently under construction behind the Worrell Professional Center.

The corporate center used to house the world headquarters of RJR Nabisco Inc., but was donated to the university in 1987 by F.

Ross Johnson, the former CEO of RJR Nabisco. Johnson donated the building when his company decided to move its headquarters to Atlanta.

The university decided to sell the complex because it receives only a 4.5 to 5 percent return on the investment, much lower than what the university earns on the rest of its holdings. The proceeds from the sale will go to the university's \$665-million endowment fund.

The building, on which construction was begun in January 1976, has two acres of office space per floor and is 85 feet tall and 700 feet long. It is being marketed by Binswanger Real Estate Inc. According to *The Winston-Salem Journal*, the building is being billed as a corporate headquarters and could bring hundreds of new jobs to the area if a company makes the property its headquarters.