

UNC breaks ground on Global Education Center

UNC News Services

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will celebrate breaking ground for a new Global Education Center at 1 p.m. Friday in the Old Well Ballroom of the Carolina Inn.



Coclanis

Starting construction of the Global Education Center will be a major step forward for Carolina in establishing a more high profile international presence, said Peter Coclanis, associate provost for international affairs. The center will be near the Friday Center on the corner of McCauley and Pittsboro streets.

Later this month, NAFSA: Association of International Educators will publish "Internationalizing the Campus 2004: Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities," featuring UNC among five U.S. campuses selected for in-depth profiles. The report showcases U.S. colleges and universities that are making innovative efforts to integrate global approaches into campus learning — one of the key objectives of UNC's Global Education Center.

"The Global Education Center will be, in many ways, a one-stop shop for our internationalization efforts," Coclanis said. "There are not too many campuses that have this particular vision right now for global

education, and this building will help to stamp us as a university fully committed to pushing that vision forward. The Global Education Center is where our students will realize that the world is as close as their doorstep."

The center will bring together in one facility the three major components of international education: student services, academic programs and faculty research, Coclanis said.

When completed, the center will be an 80,000 square-foot building with a three-story main structure topped by a smaller fourth floor. The building's features will include classroom space, a videoconferencing center and a home for several academic and student programs now spread across campus. Those include the Office of Study Abroad, the Curriculum in International and Asian Studies, Carolina Asia Center, University Center for International Studies, Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, Center for African Studies, Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies, Center for European Studies, Institute of Latin American Studies, N.C. Center for South Asian Studies and the Institute for Advanced Research in International and Area Studies.

Speaking at the center's groundbreaking celebration will be UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser, Board of Trustees Chairman Richard

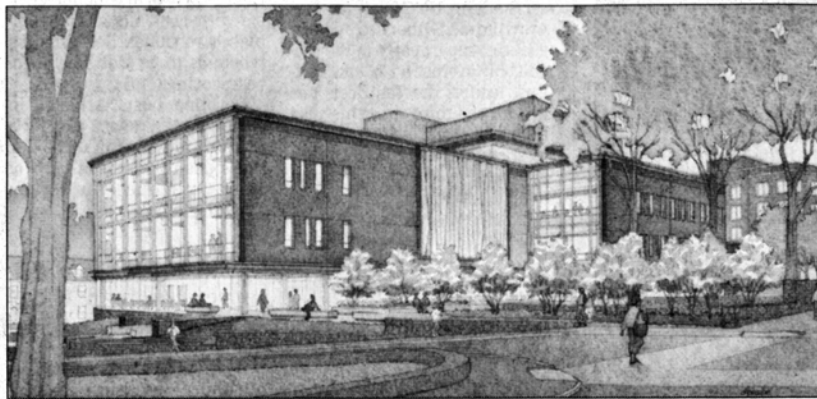


Illustration courtesy of UNC News Services

The Global Education Center in an artist's rendering, shown from Pittsboro Street,

"Stick" Williams of Charlotte, UNC President Molly Broad, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Bernadette Gray-Little and Coclanis.

The Higher Education Bond Referendum, approved in 2000, generated \$20 million for the \$31 million center. UNC's College of Arts and Sciences plans to raise another \$7.5 million for the building from private donors contributing to the university's Carolina First Campaign. University non-appropriated receipts also will be used toward project costs.

"We are committed to expanding international opportunities to all Carolina students by infusing a global experience and perspective through integrated classes, seminars, research and field experiences both here and abroad," said

Gray-Little.

"The Global Education Center will help us provide a more meaningful education for the 21st Century while serving as a hub for international activities and a gathering place for students, faculty and our visitors from around the world."

The groundbreaking is just one of several global activities at the university this month that are free and open to the public.

Photographer and National Public Radio commentator Jesse Kalisher, a Chapel Hill resident, will put on an autobiographical performance, "We're Not the Tourists You're Looking For," on Wednesday, at 7 p.m. in the Cobb Theater of the Stone Center.

Kalisher's one-person show will draw from the experiences he and his wife, Helen, had in

Syria on Sept. 11, 2001, as well as in Jordan, Israel and Egypt following the attack. The show has made stops in San Francisco and Las Vegas. Kalisher's photography has been shown in museums from Los Angeles to New York. He is an occasional commentator for NPR's "Marketplace," "Day to Day" and "Savvy Traveler"

Columbia University Professor Jagdish Bhagwati, a top international trade and immigration expert, will lecture at 4 p.m. Friday, in the Cobb Theater of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History.

Bhagwati is a senior fellow in international economics with the Council on Foreign Relations. A leader in the fight for free trade, he has published more than 300 articles and 50

volumes. He writes frequently for The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times and The New Republic. His book, "In Defense of Globalization," published earlier this year, has received worldwide acclaim.

International Education Week, Nov. 15-19, celebrates the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of an effort to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences in the United States.

UNC's observance will include "Welcome to Carolina, Welcome to the World: A Campus Conversation," hosted by Coclanis to discuss the university's international initiatives, challenges and opportunities. This Nov. 15 session and a reception will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Cobb Theater of the Stone Center.

Other highlights include an international education exhibition and fair; a film forum and screening with filmmaker Alex Rivera; a field trip on campus for public school teachers and students; a benefit concert for Kibera featuring local bands; and an international photography contest. For a schedule of all of the upcoming international events, visit <http://international.unc.edu/>