UNCP international students received a firsthand lesson in American civics and history when the Office of International Programs took them to Washington, D.C., over fall break.

Seventeen of the 18 students who went on the trip were from Asia, mostly China. English as a Second Language Specialist Alicia Baucum and Study Abroad Coordinator Robyn Deemer led the trip. Participants saw such landmarks as the Capitol building, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial and many more during the three days in the nation’s capital.

Capital tour

Baucum and Deemer took students to the Capitol building on Oct. 14. There they viewed a movie narrated by Maya Angelou that explained the history of American democracy. The movie called Congress “the branch most closely connected with the people,” and named famous pieces of legislation passed by Congress, including the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and the Compromise of 1850.

Later in the movie, students toured the statue collection in the Capitol building. Representatives of every state filled three cases along the floor. Carolina’s representatives in the collection are former governors Zebulon Vance and Charles Aycock.

Tour guide Adrian said the room now known as National Statuary Hall was the meeting place of the House of Representatives until 1857. She said the media now use the hall as a place to set up before presidential addresses.

National Archives

UNCP students also went to the National Archives building down the street from the capitol Oct. 14. Baucum and several students viewed the original Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights in the rotunda. Due to the documents’ fragility, visitors were sent inside the display area one group at a time. Additionally, the documents themselves sat in cases filled with argon, controlled humidity and special fiber optic lights for maximum preservation.

Inside the Public Vaults section of the National Archives, students could view exhibits ranging from 19th-century photographs of the Old West to a photo of the White House’s first web site in 1994.

Protests

Students saw democracy in action during their trip as the Occupy D.C. movement took out in Freedom Plaza over the weekend and marched to the Washington Monument Oct. 15.

Baucum witnessed the protests at the monument. “We had to walk with them because it was the only way to go. It was very well put together and very well organized,” Baucum said.

Chinese Visiting Scholar Johnny Xiamping Yue watched the Oct. 15 protests from 14th Street near Freedom Plaza. He said free food and water were offered to protesters, and he had lunch with some of them.

Visiting international students viewed another protest unconnected with the Occupy D.C. movement while visiting the White House. A Korean woman holding an “Anti-Nuclear/Peace Vigil” ahead of South Korean President Lee Myung-bak’s official visit handed out flyers taped in Korean. She also offered free books titled “Votes, Money, and the Clinton Administration” and “The 1 Flat George W. Bush Reader.” Some students were surprised at the protest’s bluntness, but Deemer reassured them that the vigil was acceptable.

“If I asked a man if he had confidence about the movement. He said he was confident. Yeah said,” Yue said.

Another visiting Chinese instructor who did not wish to be identified said, “I am very happy that the protest was peaceful.”

Some of the protesters had very nice conversations with police,” she said.

Visiting international students viewed several plots of land as the trip continued. Students viewed the Kennedy memorial, including the “Eternal Flame” that burned next to John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis’s graves. The grave marker of the recently deceased Edward Kennedy rested near the memorial.

Students also viewed the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which was guarded by a soldier in full dress uniform. The cemetery also featured smaller memorial plaques placed under trees. The plaques’ subjects included the 82nd Airborne, Pearl Harbor and American prisoners of war.

After leaving Arlington, students crossed Memorial Bridge into the District of Columbia to visit the Lincoln memorial. There National Park Service employee M. Raban told visitors that although the memorial was a popular idea in Congress, it faced a major roadblock in its construction.

“There wasn’t much arm-twisting needed after Lincoln was assassinated. It was approved in 1867, but construction didn’t begin until the end of the 19th century because the land around it needed to be drained,” Raban said, referring to D.C.’s natural ecology as a swampland.

Photo by Kelly Mayo

History, current events merge on Fall Break trip

By Kelly Mayo

News Editor

The owner, Brenda White, has had 23 years experience as an employee and owning her own shop. White’s staff of four is on being very personal with her customers and making everyone feel like they’re most important.

They deliver to all of Pembroke, Lumebton, Fairmont, Roby, St. Paul’s, Orrum, Maxton, Rowland and any other area you need delivered to. In the three weeks of being open, Angelica’s Florist has already donated silk arrangements and wreaths to UNCP offices. They also offer all students staff, military and police 10 percent off with their ID.

New flower shop offers UNCP students discount

By Samantha Gomez

Staff Writer

Have you checked out the new florist in town? Angelica’s Garden & Gifts just opened up three weeks ago.

The owner, Brenda White, has had 23 years experience as an employee and owning her own shop.

The store specializes in silk arrangements, fresh cut flowers, long stem roses, wreaths, church arrangements and interior design.

White’s staff of four is willing to deliver any price range of flowers, bears, balloons, etc. But customers can also pick up arrangements at the store.

They also do wreaths filled with your favorite vases or flowers to your door or apartment door.

If you’re looking for nice flowers and an exceptional vase to “wow” your recipient, take a look at what Angelica Garden & Gifts has to offer.

The florist prides herself on being very personal with her customers and making everyone feel like they’re most important.

They deliver to all of Pembroke, Lumebton, Fairmont, Roby, St. Paul’s, Orrum, Maxton, Rowland and any other area you need delivered to. In the three weeks of being open, Angelica’s Florist has already donated silk arrangements and wreaths to UNCP offices. They also offer all students staff, military and police 10 percent off with their ID.

Visitors walk around, take photos and pose in front of the White House. The White House was one of many stops on the trip sponsored by the Office of International Programs over fall break.

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