

“The tobacco tying and calligraphy were interesting, and I heard a lot of positive comments,” Brackin said. “The event was captured on video by **Dr. John Labadie’s** (Art) digital art class.

“We wanted the opportunity to offer events that involve everyone, and to participate in the event you did not have to be an international student or international faculty member,” she said. “There was no definition of culture, each participant decided what they wanted to share at the event.”

The International Programs director said the event is on for next year with room for more faculty and student participation. She noted a great deal of support from the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, faculty and student groups.

Thomas Center awarded grant to develop courses



The Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship received a Lemelson Foundation grant for \$8,000 to develop courses on campus and in the region.

The Thomas Center will aid in the expansion of entrepreneurship courses across the disciplines at UNCP and at three community colleges, Sandhills, Richmond and Robeson, said **Dr. Mike Menefee** (Business/Thomas Center), the Thomas Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship.

The award is considered to be one of the four most prestigious in the field of entrepreneurship and was awarded to only 20 schools this year, including some of the nation’s largest and most prestigious universities.

“We are trying to develop entrepreneurship initiatives across the University,” Dr. Menefee said. “We have successfully launched an undergraduate certificate program and a minor and a concentration in the MBA program.”

The grant is targeting course development in music entrepreneurship, recreational tourism in the Physical Education Department and a biotechnology research program.

Dr. Cammie Hunt-Oxendine (Business), acting dean, hailed the award as a boon for the University’s entrepreneurship programs.

“The grant will enhance opportunities for our faculty, our students and our communities,” Dr. Hunt-Oxendine said. “It will open many doors.”

The grant is noteworthy for two reasons, Dr. Menefee said.

“First, we got this grant on our first year of eligibility with the NCIIA (National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance), an initiative of the Lemelson Foundation,” he said. “Three hundred and fifty institutions were eligible for the grant.

“Second, this grant opens the door for additional funding from the foundation and elsewhere,” Dr. Menefee said.

Already, the Office of Academic Affairs has pledged matching funds for scientific equipment, and the Thomas Center pledged funds for a research assistant.

The Lemelson grant will allow students the opportunity to study current best practices in entrepreneurship. This project has the potential to directly impact the economic activity of the area.

The grant falls into one of three NCIIA grant categories. It is a course and program development grant designed to “improve curricular programs that foster invention, innovation and entrepreneurship.”

The Lemelson Foundation supports inventors, invention and innovation at every stage. This helps ensure that great ideas and great inventors will continue to serve the U.S. and the world.

Headquartered in Portland, Ore., the foundation funds programs and projects to “cultivate the next generation of inventors and to ensure that inventors everywhere have access to the tools and resources they need to realize their ideas.”

Can the virtual world aid teaching and learning?



A seminar on using Second Life (SL) in higher education, including the new Mary Livermore Library virtual services, will be held Tuesday, November 2, from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. in Room 238 of Old Main.

The presentation will be led by **Dr. Tony Curtis** (Mass Communication), director of UNCP's campus in the virtual world Second Life. He will



deliver an introduction to using Second Life in higher education - why and how the virtual world is a good solution in higher education - with an emphasis on the use of the new library services in SL.

Also contributing to the presentation will be experienced Second Life educators, pictured from left: **Dr. Judith Curtis** (Mass Communication), **Dr. Maryanne Maisano** (Education) and **June Power** (Library).