**Mission**
The Department of Languages and Culture Studies offers graduate and undergraduate programs of study in strategically selected languages, literatures, and film to develop students' language skills, cultural knowledge, literacy, and critical thinking in order to prepare its graduates for participation and leadership in an increasingly global, multicultural, and multilingual society.

**Vision**
The Department of Languages and Culture Studies aspires to be known for the strength of its degree offerings, its flexible curriculum that balances tradition with innovation, and its unique programs in translation and interpreting, language for specific purposes, and film studies.

**Diversity Statement**
The core mission of the Department of Languages and Culture Studies is to prepare our graduates for participation and leadership in an increasingly global, multicultural, and multilingual society. We embrace the promotion, discussion and understanding of diversity through our coursework, scholarship, mentoring, and in our actions and procedures. In addition, we affirm a commitment to access and equity through inclusive actions around complex ideas and issues pertaining to all races and ethnicities; gender identities; political viewpoints; sexual orientations; special health needs; ages; belief systems; countries of origin; and socio-economic status.
This semester started with two weeks of remote teaching, but then it was back to “near normal,” although we continued making accommodations when students and colleagues had to isolate or quarantine. It was great seeing conversations in the hallways again and being able to conduct some of our meetings and events in person!

Our department had many accomplishments in Spring 2022. First and foremost, we are very proud of our students. We awarded 73 undergraduate degrees, 3 Masters degrees in Spanish, 54 undergraduate and 4 graduate certificates, and over 64 students graduated with a language minor. 17 language majors were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honor society, and many of our current and former students were admitted to excellent graduate programs. Congratulations to all of them!

Our faculty continued to innovate in the classroom by offering virtual exchanges with universities in China, Colombia, Japan, and Germany, among others. We were finally able to resume some of our faculty-led programs in Costa Rica, France, and Italy in the spring and summer, and we renewed our collaboration with the German Language and Culture Foundation to send students to Germany. Several members of our department organized successful events again this spring, including a Heritage Language Learning Symposium, the annual SEACS (Southeastern Association of Cultural Studies) Conference, and the Tenth Biennial Conference of the American Translation and Interpreting Studies Association. Our faculty, staff and students have continued to receive grants, scholarships, prizes, and honors for their outstanding contributions. Congratulations in particular to our Business Services Coordinator, Carol Hartley, who received the Employee of the Year Award in the Devotion to Duty category, and to our Associate Chair, Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, for winning the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching. Congratulations also to Dale Grote, Associate Professor of Classics, who retired after a successful career of 30 years at UNC Charlotte. Please read about these highlights and more in this issue of the Polyglot. Thank you to everyone for a very good semester, and best wishes for a wonderful summer!
Staff Achievements
Carol Hartley: Devotion to Duty Award

Congratulations to our own Carol Hartley, Business Services Coordinator, for winning the 2022 Employee of the Year Award for Devotion to Duty. She was honored at the 2022 Sweet Success Reception in the Hauser Alumni Pavilion on April 26. In her acceptance speech, Carol referred to her education as a theater major, emphasizing that she was interested in the set, costumes and lighting. She liked the work behind the scenes that allowed the show to run. In her role in our department, Carol still considers herself the stage manager. “The show does indeed go on” because Carol has a hammer, band-aids and a sewing kit in her desk. But more importantly, because she goes above and beyond the normal requirements of her duties as Business Services Coordinator in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies. Especially during the past couple of years during the pandemic, it has become even clearer that Carol holds the department together. Carol kept the department going in a practical sense, but she also kept faculty, staff and students going when things appeared impossible to maneuver.
Carol’s greatest contribution during the pandemic, and always, is her impact on the psychological wellbeing of the members of our department. In the early, dark days of the pandemic, Carol organized a daily Happy Hour and hosted it herself once a week. Faculty dropped in during these social zoom hours, connected, exchanged stories of how they were surviving online teaching, social isolation, anxiety for family and friends, and shared tips, tricks and good news. Carol managed to get the majority of the department involved in the Happy Hours, bringing people together and offering a place of light in the midst of the darkest days of the pandemic. In addition, Carol spent countless hours listening to individual faculty and staff who sought out her incredible listening skills, her insights and advice, when needed, and her heartfelt compassion for everyone.

She managed to keep the department going and gave all of us hope and light. It is difficult to describe in writing why Carol is the 2022 UNC Charlotte Employee of the Year in the category of Devotion to Duty. The best way to express what Carol means to us is that “Carol is the heart of our department.”

- By Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, PhD

Photo credit: Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, PhD
The purpose of this event organized by the University Career Center was to network with potential employers and fellow students, and to learn dining and professional etiquette. The food was excellent, and everyone there was so friendly and welcoming! Students were able to learn so much from one another and from the employers. We left the event knowing how important it is to sell oneself at a job interview. It is also crucial to learn the necessary interview skills to obtain a job in a field in which one has no previous experience. One can do this by pointing out the skills they already have, and how those skills can positively impact that company. Most importantly, this event reminded everyone that just a simple smile and a thank you can go a long way. It was very kind of the University Career Center to host the Etiquette Dinner, and very thoughtful and generous of the Department of Languages and Culture Studies to sponsor the participation of club advisors and graduating seniors.

- By Sophia Beck

Featuring Gabrielle Haley, Nataly Hernandez Montes, and Sophia Beck
SEACS Conference Overview
On February 18 and 19, UNC Charlotte hosted the Third Annual Conference for the Southeastern Association of Cultural Studies (SEACS) and the Second Virtual Conference for SEACS.

SEACS is an organization dedicated to connecting colleagues who specialize in Cultural Studies, Literature, World Languages, Linguistics, and Pedagogy. As a regional organization with an international scope, SEACS holds annual meetings in the southeast region of the US, drawing participants from the immediate area and beyond. SEACS is a regional, non-profit organization that promotes scholarly exploration in a collegial spirit. It is dedicated to maintaining a supportive community of educators, scholars, and graduate students as well as providing early professionalization opportunities for advanced undergraduate students.

The SEACS 2022 Keynote Speaker was Julie Sperling, with her presentation "Beautiful Destruction: Using art to depict chaos and hope in the Anthropocene". The two-day program included a great variety of panels, including Student Engagement in and out of the Classroom, The Shape of Literary Analysis, Settler Student Reflections about Living and Studying on Native Land, Multi-Identity and Latinx Studies, Exploring Social Issues, Translation and Transformation, Terror and Control in Global Literature. One highlight of the conference was “A Mystery Memoir: Uncovering the Secrets of Schatten, a Post WWII Camp Hodolein Memoir,” presented by Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, John Sullivan, and Jules Geaney-Moore.

Italian Participation in SEACS
On February 18, the Coordinator of the Italian program at UNC Charlotte, Daniela Cunico Dal Pra, PhD, and undergraduate Alexa Wallace presented “An Example of Student Engagement in the Classroom: Progetto Pigafetta,” as an example of teacher-student collaboration. It consisted of Italian-English translations of a map of Vicenza, Italy, commemorating the 500-year anniversary of Ferdinand Magellan’s circumnavigation, documented by the Italian Vicenza Antonio Pigafetta in his journal.

The group was able to work together on a historical text, practice translation (tackling various issues related to grammar, structure, and culture), and learn about the Italian Renaissance, history, geography, and culture. The project was completed by the end of the Fall 2021 Semester and submitted to the publishers of the map, ultimately to be published in Italy.

- By Daniela Cunico Dal Pra, PhD
Spanish 3202 Advanced Conversation and Composition has fostered the opportunity for great collaboration between students and instructors with Communication Across the Curriculum (CxC), a University sponsored program whose main goal is to strengthen student learning experiences. The consultant serves as a peer mentor who supports student learning and development in a communication-enhanced curriculum by engaging themselves as readers/listeners. They provide informed, constructive criticism directed toward the focus, scope, evidence, analysis, organization, clarity, and style of papers and presentations. It is imperative for this class that the student meets a minimum of intermediate Spanish oral and written communication levels. Consultants focus on global issues of assignment criteria, organization, development, and purpose with respect to the course rather than correcting superficial errors. Consultants are required to complete 110 to 120 hours of work per semester. They attend classes and hold private sessions with assigned students. At the SEACS Conference this year, Spanish Language Consultants Lindsey Frechette, Troy Senecal, Matthew Levecque, and Kate Mitchell presented their experiences.

-By Susana Cisneros

Lindsey Frechette

Being a consultant comes with certain requirements and responsibilities. Over the semester, a consultant creates an e-portfolio that outlines their goals for the semester, as well as creating a midterm review of those goals, and an end of the semester evaluation of the goals.

Troy Senecal

Having a Communication Consultant is like having a friend who has already taken the class, can answer any questions you have about assignments, and even help you prepare for the two individual and two group presentations by practicing or brainstorming ideas with you throughout the semester. However, they will not do the work for you. A positive experience that I had with my consultant was when she helped me prepare for the first individual presentation. We were only a few weeks into the semester, and I was still trying to figure out my other classes. What I thought would be the most challenging was that it had to be in Spanish. Actually, the hardest part was that I would have to rely on my ability to speak clearly and loudly (both of which are not my strong suit) while wearing a mask for at least five minutes. Not only did I have to prepare for this presentation in a few days, but I had reserved time to practice it in front of my consultant. The 15 minutes I spent with my consultant were the most helpful and reassuring.

- By Troy Senecal
Matthew Levecque

The Consultant's work both inside and outside of the classroom is to be a guide and helping hand for students taking the course. This position has helped me not only as a consultant during the Spring 2022 semester but also as a student when I first took the course in Fall 2021.

I started my journey at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte as a freshman in 2021. I am majoring in Spanish and minoring in K-12 Foreign Language Education. I took SPAN 3202 as a freshman since I came in with some credits from high school and was placed in the 3000-level courses. I registered for Profesora Cisneros’ 1pm section of this course and was given the opportunity to have Lindsey as my consultant.

Seeing the impact that Lindsey’s consultations and Profesora Cisneros’s teaching had on my confidence in giving oral presentations and being more confident in the use of the Spanish language, I knew I wanted to contribute as a consultant as well. Through this position, I have been able to see the helpful impact I had on students, and grow professionally as well. I have been given so many opportunities to learn about education and professional development and I am so grateful for those opportunities. Being able to learn from others, then teach the same wisdom and skills to others and see the impact it has on them is so amazing.

- By Matthew Levecque

Kate Mitchell

As a consultant, I get to see a lot of different students and connect with them as they have their own experiences in the course. It has been an amazing experience, and getting to do it in Spanish has made it even more meaningful to me.

Part of what makes this job great is how much it improves my self-worth. So much of our self-worth is tied to helping others. As one of the first communication consultants in Spanish, I get to experience this both in person and in virtual consultations one-on-one. It is not always easy, though. We learn and talk a lot about diversity, equity, and inclusion and how we can bring that about for the students. I consult with students of different levels of fluency, different races, and different socioeconomic backgrounds, so I have to work to meet individuals at their level and adapt to help each student achieve their goals.

An obstacle that comes with consulting, however, is the transition from a virtual environment to an in-person one. There’s a difference between virtual and in-person workload, boundaries, and immersion opportunities. There are also technical difficulties with Zoom meetings and internet connection as well. This is a common experience as we navigate living and working in the pandemic. It is not always easy, but most of these struggles can be remedied with careful observation, updating processes as needed, and keeping an open mind as we learn more. It is important to take into account student needs, virtually and beyond, as we move forward with the CxC program.

All in all, this program has been a meaningful part of my life as a student at UNC Charlotte and as a young professional.

- By Kate Mitchell
On Friday, April 8th, a group of representatives from the Italian program were able to meet with the Honorable Cristiana Mele, General Consul of Italy of Philadelphia, and Dr. Claudio Carpano, Honorary Consul of Italy to the Carolinas. During the event, the Italian Program was able to sponsor the activities of the Italian Club, and other activities related to Italian culture on campus. This was the first event hosted by the Italian Club since 2020.

- By Daniela Cunico Dal Pra, PhD

Photo Credit: Bobby Hobgood, EdD
During the last week of February, Javier García León, PhD and Paloma Fernández Sánchez, PhD organized the 2022 Heritage Language Learning Symposium. The event was sponsored by the UNC Charlotte Chancellor’s Diversity Grant and the CLAS Alumni Council Fall Faculty Grant. This year’s event aimed to increase understanding of how racial and linguistic practices intersect and affect learners of minoritized languages. During the two-day event, four well-known researchers and facilitators shared their research projects and workshops on Spanish as a heritage language with the audience. In the morning sessions, Nelson Flores, PhD (University of Pennsylvania) shared his current research project on academic language from a raciolinguistic perspective. Similarly, Sergio Loza, PhD (University of Oregon) presented on creating new educational opportunities for Latinx students in language departments. In the afternoon sessions, Claudia Holguín Mendoza, PhD (U of California at Riverside) facilitated a workshop on antiracist literacy approach and student agency. The last workshop was facilitated by Sibela Pinochet, PhD (West Forsyth High School) who shared her expertise on incorporating students’ knowledge in the heritage language classroom. The event helped strengthen bilingual/heritage language practices by connecting scholars, language instructors, and students at UNC Charlotte, North Carolina and abroad. Next year, the symposium will address literacy practices in the Spanish for Heritage Speakers classroom.

- By Javier García León, PhD
Events
Challenging Students on Questions of Memory, Conflict, and Social Justice: An Online Exchange with the University of Potsdam

During the spring semester, a group of students from the German program met online with students from the University of Potsdam in Germany to tackle questions that sounded strangely familiar: Why do some Germans want to rename a street called “Mohrenstrasse” in Berlin, and why are other Germans protesting against this? Who were the Germans who recently stormed the steps of the German parliament, and how should this action be interpreted? Also, what should be done with all the statues in German cities?

To explore these questions, the students were invited to participate in four online sessions designed to foster an intercultural dialogue with their international peers about the ways in which German and American society deal with social and political issues, such as racism, antisemitism, social justice, democracy, and memorialization of the national past. Under the guidance of Senior Lecturer Bianca Potrykus and Dr. Irene Heidt, students investigated the conflicts that arise from these issues, and how these conflicts are handled in both countries.

It was a priority for the two professors to create a safe atmosphere of mutual respect and trust to allow students to engage actively and openly, even when others’ ideas and opinions radically contradicted their own.

After four intense meetings with absorbing and often challenging conversations, students and faculty walked away with plenty of food for thought. All agreed that even though each online session allowed for 90 minutes of interaction, the exchange could easily have been expanded over several more sessions to allow for an even deeper level of engagement. Senior Lecturer Potrykus and Dr. Heidt plan to take the experiences and lessons of this first exchange and apply them to another exchange next spring.

- By Bianca Potrykus
For Betsabe Rojas Gonzalez, a spring break trip to Paris meant taking a peek into her future career as a diplomat. As an immigrant, she was not unfamiliar with learning about new cultures, but this trip would surpass her learning expectations. From kindergarten to high school, Betsabe had been a part of a French immersion program in which she immersed herself in francophone language and culture. Although she had been learning French from a young age, her 2022 study abroad experience would be the first time she would use her language skills with local residents. Using her language and cultural skills, Betsabe was able to navigate a new country while also helping her peers connect with the local culture and customs. She experienced what it would be like to be a Parisian by using the metro, frequenting boulangeries, and having lunch under the Eiffel Tower. Betsabe had been most exposed to Latin American culture up until then, so experiencing things through the French lens was new and exciting. Additionally, being able to see historical monuments in person gave them more meaning and depth for her. She wishes to see more of these monuments in the future.

Through her Pickering Fellowship, Betsabe will join the foreign service upon finishing her graduate studies at Princeton University.
We are proud to announce that, following the creation of Phi Beta Kappa at UNC Charlotte this year, seventeen of our language majors have been inducted into this academic honor society — the nation’s oldest and most prestigious. This is especially significant because only 10% of U.S. colleges and universities are being given a chapter this year. Membership is highly selective and requires both high grades and academic depth and breadth in the liberal arts and sciences.

Our French majors given this honor are Sophia Beck, Hannah Grissom, Mary Messina, Galen Miller and Gabriela Swic. Our Japanese majors include Gwynnevere Stephanie Clark, Olivia Dobbs, Michelle Halle, Whytnee Hollingsworth, and Camden Blake Johnson. Our Spanish majors inducted include Merel Devaney, Alexandra Fitzgerald, Evelyn Glukhoman, Hope Jamison, Chloe Nicola, Madison Snyder, and Abbegale Styers. We also congratulate Japanese minors Andee Diaz and Ariel Von Alberto, French minor Yuleny Gomez Rodriguez, and Spanish minor Whytnee Hollingsworth. Overall, there were twenty students from our department represented.

The students were chosen based on class standing, grade point average (GPA), foreign language and math courses requirements, quality of coursework in the liberal arts and sciences disciplines and other credentials. UNC Charlotte’s Installation and Induction Ceremony took place on April 20, 2022. Congratulations to the students and the many faculty members who have helped mentor them to reach their greatest potential.
Alumni Achievements

Ed Miller

Ed Miller graduated in Spring 2020 with a Graduate Certificate in Translating (German-English). As a retired US Army officer, Ed is a prime example of the life-long learner. His curiosity about accessing original German documents concerning the Cold War led him to pursuing his certificate in German-English translation. He has just been admitted to UNC Chapel Hill’s Transatlantic Master’s program, which he will start in Fall 2022. During his first year, he will study in Chapel Hill; the second year, he will study at the University of Bremen in Germany. He has long wanted to study in Germany and this is a dream come true.

- By Concepción Godev, PhD

Kyle Parrish

Kyle Parrish graduated with a Master’s in Spanish (Language, Literature and Culture) in Spring 2018. The linguistics courses he took during his time at UNC Charlotte inspired him to pursue a PhD in Spanish Linguistics at Rutgers University. In January 2022, Kyle defended his dissertation proposal, titled The Phonology of the Absolute Initial State of L3 Acquisition.

- By Concepción Godev, PhD
Alumni Achievements

Liane She

Liane She graduated with a Master’s in Spanish (Translating and Translation Studies) in Spring 2016. Her experiences as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and MA Fellow, and as a French and Spanish language college instructor, have paved her way into her EdD in Educational Leadership at UNC Charlotte. In March 2022, Liane successfully defended her dissertation proposal, titled Faculty Experiences in Teaching Students with Visual Impairments in Online Language Courses in Higher Education.

- By Concepción Godev, PhD

Laura Price

Laura Price graduated with a Master’s in Spanish (Translation and Translating Studies) and a Graduate Certificate in Translation and Interpreting Studies from UNC Charlotte in May 2020. She has been accepted to the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at UNC Charlotte and will begin in Fall 2022. Laura is currently teaching interpreting and translation courses at Durham Technical Community College (DTCC). She has experience as an EC interpreter/translator and worked in special education, mental health, brain injury and domestic violence for the past twenty-two years both in home visits as well as in the school system. She is a passionate and caring advocate for the education of future interpreters and translators, and she will be able to work professionally and successfully in the field.

- By Mónica Rodríguez-Castro, PhD
Alumni Achievements

Margaret Johnson enters PhD program at Emory University

Double Major in German and Nursing Maggie Johnson has been accepted to a PhD program in Nursing with full funding at Emory University. She also received an offer to complete a PhD at NYU. Maggie received a Fulbright Fellowship in the 2019-20 Academic Year and had to return due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Upon her return she began working as an ER nurse in coronavirus hotspots like New York during the first wave. Maggie says about these experiences: “I think the most important thing for me on my Fulbright was realizing how much independence and self-starting you need to be capable of, and that is why it's so important for your personal experience and passion to be embedded in your project. It is definitely what helped me most on the days where it felt like nothing was going right and I just wanted to give up on certain things all together. It is also what has driven me to apply for grants and other opportunities to go back and finish what COVID interrupted.” Therefore, Maggie has applied for another Fulbright Fellowship and is set to begin her PhD in Nursing at Emory University in Fall 2022. We are incredibly proud of Maggie for the contributions she has made and for her future endeavors. It will be wonderful to see her succeed in her doctoral studies.

- By Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, PhD
Alumni Achievements

Flor Adams

Flor Adams is graduating with a Master’s in Spanish (Language, Literature and Culture Studies Concentration) in May 2022. Flor has collaborated with Javier García León, PhD, and Mónica Rodríguez-Castro, PhD, on several research projects. Flor has been an outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant under the supervision of Olga Padilla-Falto, PhD, and has played a critical role in the implementation of the new textbook for SPAN 1201: Elementary Spanish. Flor has been accepted into the PhD program in Linguistics at the University of Georgia and will start in Fall 2022. Flor, this is just one of the many accomplishments coming your way!

- By Mónica Rodríguez-Castro, PhD

Spectrum News Features our Internship Partnership with Charlotte Lab School

Since Spring 2021, the Department of Languages and Culture Studies has been partnering with Charlotte Lab School. Graduate students Martha Alyea, Selena Drees, Jasmine Moore, Juan Navarrete and Hunter Newman served as translation and interpreting interns under the supervision of Mónica Rodríguez-Castro, PhD, at UNC Charlotte and Ms. Najenson at Charlotte Lab School. They had the opportunity to translate a wide range of school-related materials and serve as interpreters at multiple parent-teacher conferences.

Jasmine Moore and Juan Navarrete are currently pursuing Master’s degrees in Spanish at UNC Charlotte, and Hunter Newman will be graduating with a Master’s in Spanish in May 2022. Martha Alyea is pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Translating, and Selena Drees is graduating with a Graduate Certificate in Translation and Interpreting Studies.

As the Latinx population continues to grow in Mecklenburg County, we are seeing an increasing need for translators and interpreters in K-12 settings. Our students supported Charlotte Lab in filling their communication gaps while contributing to the Lab’s commitment to caring for their families. “This partnership has been a success, and we will continue to do our best to offer experiential learning opportunities to our graduate students in the future,” Mónica Rodríguez-Castro, PhD concluded. We wish Martha, Selena, Jasmine, Juan and Hunter all the best in their upcoming endeavors!

- By Mónica Rodríguez-Castro, PhD
The Universidad del Atlántico (Colombia) invited Javier García León, PhD, as a guest speaker for a roundtable on gender representation in Latin American media and cinema (March 17, 2022). García León shared part of his current research with scholars and attendees from Spain, the USA, and Colombia. García León also offered some insights on how to promote better representations of the Latin American transgender community in the media. Wake Forest University also invited Javier García León, PhD, as a guest speaker for the Linguistics Speakers Series (March 23, 2022). García León presented his talk titled “The Representation of Transgender Identities in the Colombian Press: A Qualitative and Quantitative Discourse Analysis.” The purpose of the talk was to discuss current approaches to understand the issue of trans representation from an interdisciplinary approach. During the talk, García León also offered some critical remarks on how to promote inclusive language.
Faculty Achievements
Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, PhD, receives Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching

Congratulations to Dr. Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, who received the Board of Governors Award For Excellence In Teaching during the Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 14, 2022. Established by the Board of Governors in 1994 to underscore the importance of and to reward good teaching across the University system, this award is given annually to a tenured faculty member from each UNC campus. This is one of many awards and accolades that Anabel has received for her outstanding teaching: she received the Bonnie E. Cone Early-Career Professorship in Teaching in 2009, the UNC Charlotte International Education Award in 2018, and UNC Charlotte’s top teaching award, the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence, in 2021. We are proud to have such a gifted teacher in our department!

- By Michèle Bissière, PhD

Photo credit: Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, PhD
Farewell  
Dale Grote, PhD, Retires  

Photo Credit: Bobby Hobgood, EdD

The Department of Languages and Culture Studies says farewell this semester to Dale Grote, PhD, Associate Professor of Classics, Greek and Latin. Dr. Grote holds a Master’s in Greek from the University of Iowa and a PhD in Classics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where he wrote a dissertation titled “Sophocles's Electra: Good Cheer and Matricide.” He arrived at UNC Charlotte in 1992 from Berea College in Kentucky, where he taught as Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics for two years. He was the first full-time classicist hired by UNC Charlotte. In the first years of his appointment, he offered both Latin and Ancient Greek, as well as courses in classical mythology, religion, history, and philosophy. He established the interdisciplinary Classical Studies Minor, which he directed. As an early pioneer of the digital world in education, Dale’s first fully online course went live in 1997. In 2002, he began teaching large Liberal Studies classes online, and since then contributing to the University’s core curriculum has been a major part of his work.

Dale has mentored students over the years who have gone on to earn degrees in Classics at Yale, Chapel Hill, Stanford, UPenn and Oxford. See the tribute from one of them, John Dillon, on the next page. Dale served the department on various college- and university-level committees, serving as the Chair of the Arts and Sciences Faculty Council for two consecutive years. He was the first and only untenured faculty member to serve in that capacity.

Dale later directed the Master’s of Liberal Studies program and created specially designed study tours of Greece for its students. Subsequently, he directed and led nearly 20 personally designed tours for UNC Charlotte students, private individuals, and homeschooling groups. He also served as President of the North Carolina Classical Association and as editor and writer of the National Greek Exam.

Farewell
Dale Grote, PhD

Dale’s retirement plans are “to catch up on some reading he has been putting off, working on small engines in his shop, and strumming age-appropriate songs on his guitar,” which he has described as “an innocuous hobby that wins him first place ribbons in the Iowa State Fair’s annual guitar contests.” We owe Dale Grote a great deal for having helped to build this department, and we wish him the very best. Thank you, Dale. It has been our distinct honor and privilege to have worked with you!

- By Dr. Michael Doyle

My Greatest Teacher, Dale Grote — by John Noël Dillon

John Dillon has a Bachelor’s summa cum laude in English and History from UNC Charlotte (2001), with a minor in Classical Languages. He went on to receive a PhD in Classics from Yale University in 2008. He has held various positions at the University of Heidelberg (Germany), the University of Exeter (UK), and Peking University (China). He is currently a Lecturer in Ecclesiastical Latin at Yale Divinity School.

"When I got to UNC Charlotte in 1998, a kid from Gastonia with a knack for Latin, I met Dale Grote, Charlotte’s one-man Classics faculty—who is now retiring after thirty years at UNC Charlotte. Dale was a vox classicizantis in deserto—‘a voice classicizing in the desert,’ to riff off the Vulgate Bible. In those days, Dale taught introductory Latin every year and Greek every other year. And in between, he lectured on everything from mythology to history to philosophy and directed the Master’s in Liberal Studies.

"I happened to place out of Dale’s two regular Latin classes. That satisfied my language requirement, but I wanted to keep going. So I approached Dale to see what I could do. Without hesitation, he let me join his intermediate students (all non-traditional!) for a reading course on the Gospel of Mark. We all had a blast and read Virgil together the next semester.”

(Continued on next page)
Farewell
Dale Grote, PhD

“From there on out, it was just Dale and me. I was riveted by ancient Latin, and we were both having fun. I didn’t even realize that he was actually a Hellenist! That summer was just the beginning: in my three years at UNC Charlotte, Dale somehow found the time to direct five independent reading courses with me. He even finally talked me into learning Greek!

“I only know now—having become a teacher myself—how profoundly generous Dale was to me. He had his regular course load, his own academic projects—his wonderful Guide to Wheelock’s Latin, tours of Greece, the Master’s in Liberal Studies—and he still made the time for me. Along the way, Dale became my mentor and friend. It is no exaggeration to say that Dale changed the trajectory of my life. I began to think about graduate school, but I knew nothing about academia, and a tough breakup with my girlfriend upended whatever vague plans I had. It was Dale who told me one day that UNC had just launched a post-bac in Classics. I should forget my ex-girlfriend and go for it, he said. Go! So I did. And Dale was my first reference when I applied to graduate schools the year after that. I got in. I doubt I would have even applied to UNC without Dale’s encouragement.

“In my entire academic career, no one ever dedicated more time to me than Dale Grote did. Dale taught me the thrill of language and the joy of teaching it. But above all, he was always genuine and real with me. Dale made the nuances of challenging texts fun, read the ‘classics’ with charming irreverence, and gladly shared what he knew—or didn’t know!—about the endless questions I asked. I aspire to teach my own students with that same unabashed enthusiasm, enjoyment, and candor. Dale taught me that. Congratulations on your retirement, Dale! I’ll see you the next time I pass through, and I’ll bring my guitar.”

Bridget Stipicevic

Bridget Stipicevic is moving on to new opportunities, in May of 2022. After seven years of service to the Languages and Culture Studies Department as the Administrative Support Associate specializing in Travel, working tirelessly for all faculty in the department, she is ready to take on a different challenge. Before joining our department, she worked for the College of Education. She will begin serving as the Executive Assistant to the Director of the School of Architecture this summer. Our faculty, staff and students celebrate her success and wish her well, although we will miss her.
Articles written collaboratively by the faculty and students of the Department of Languages and Culture Studies

Special thanks to the many people in the department who edited, proofread, formatted, and contributed stories to this edition.

Managing Editor: Jules Geaney-Moore

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