



Milestone for M.A. in Spanish:

100th Degree Awarded!

In May of 2015, the Master of Arts in Spanish reached a significant milestone by awarding its 100th degree. The four graduate students who passed their Comprehensive M.A. Examinations to push the program to this milestone were Rebecca Grimsley, Travis Patterson, Adolfo Peñaherrera, and Liane She. The first M.A. degree awarded for the program went to Elvira Jardines in May of 2004. The first two Master's theses, completed in 2005, were "Process and Actants and How Together They Determine Transitivity: a Spanish to English Translational Comparison" by John Stewart Bankhead, directed by Dr. Concepción Godev, and "Machine and Computer-Assisted Translation and Their Impact on the Pedagogy of Translation Studies" by Rebecca Lorraine Blue

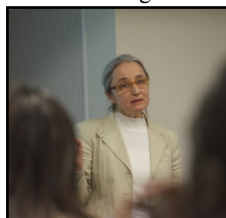
Maddox, directed by Dr. Anton Pujol.

The formal request to establish the M.A. in Spanish was submitted on August 15, 2000, and the new program was implemented in 2002. The original proposal was for a 36-semester hour program consisting of two tracks, one in Language, Literature and Culture (LLC), the other in Translating and Translation Studies (TTS English↔Spanish). Today, the program consists of 30 graduate



credit hours and continues to offer the same two concentrations, serving individuals "who seek a greater understanding of Spanish language, literatures and cultures, and who seek career and professional advancement opportunities in education, translation, applied language (Business Spanish), and who

contemplate pursuing a Ph.D. in fields such as Hispanic literature, linguistics, translation studies, intercultural communication, or international studies." Graduates of the program have been admitted to Ph.D. programs at Cornell University, the University of Virginia, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Georgia. Graduates have also



enhanced their credentials as teachers and professors of Spanish, secured employment as translators, and started translation and intercultural communication businesses.

The Master of Arts in Spanish also served as the impe-

"I'd like to thank all of my professors for their hard work and dedication to the M.A. in Spanish program. The quality of your instruction and the support you offer has made a tremendous difference in the lives of program grads."

— Shaun Stone, M.A.
Graduate 2011

tus to propose a Graduate Certificate in Translating and Translation Studies in December of 2002, implemented in 2003. This same impetus

has led to a recent proposal to add French, German, Japanese and Russian to the Graduate Certificate in TTS, anticipated for the Fall semester of 2017. The M.A. in Spanish has also provided the platform for two proposal attempts to offer a Ph.D. in

Translating and Translation Studies at UNC Charlotte, unsuccessful to date, but which hopefully provide a basis for an eventual Ph.D. in this field at UNC Charlotte.



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International TRANSLATION Day

Instructors, students and the community celebrate the importance of Language Translating around the world.



The need for translators worldwide has not decreased. There is a growing need for collaboration and interaction among translators worldwide. In a world where communication via many formats is ever-increasing, it seems fitting that the Department of Languages and Culture Studies should recognize the importance of translators and of the profession by celebrating International Translation Day. On September 30th, faculty, students, and guest speakers from the Charlotte Metro region gathered on campus to

engage in presentations and discussions throughout the day. Professor Aura Lawson single handedly organized the

"The event was a kaleidoscope of perspectives on the field, representing the applicability and vitality of translation in all of its facets."

— Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, Associate Chair, Department of Languages and Culture Studies

event, also presided over by Doctors Michael Doyle and Associate Chair Professor Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau.

The event featured presentations on translation theory, current statistics on the profession, and an outlook for translation and

translators. A highlight of the day was a panel discussion featuring professional translators that included Professor Garret Fisher (Subtitling), Mr. Peter Floyd (Federal Court Interpreting), Dr. Jeffrey Killman (Computer-assisted Translating Tools), and Dr. Monica Rodriguez (Overview of skills and Project Management). Following, attendees could choose from among 10 concurrent sessions featuring readings of literature in translation. During these sessions, professionals read from their translations, offering insight into their craft and inviting questions from attendees.

Faculty agreed that the event was indeed a great success, and have already indicated plans to hold the event again next year. Given the powerful blend of theory and practice shared throughout the day, organizers agreed that all translation students will be required to attend next year's event.

Bridging the Gulf



Peter Floyd is a Federally Certified Court Interpreter who participated in the event. Here's what he had to say about it:

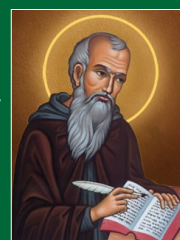
"It's lonely in the middle. We translators and interpreters, who work to bridge the gulf between others, often work in great isolation. Consequently, we very much appreciate events such as the UNCC International Translation Day celebration that allow us to dialogue with each other."

International Translation Day: A Worldwide Phenomenon



The International Federation of Translators established this day in 1991 to promote solidarity and call attention to the global importance of translation.

September 30th is the official day for this celebration, coinciding with the Feast of Saint Jerome who, as a translator of the Latin Vulgate Bible, is considered the patron saint of translators, scholars, and librarians amongst others.



Reflecting on Translation

Dr. Mónica Rodríguez-Castro, Assistant Professor of Spanish, reflects on the how UNCC prepares translation professionals.

In a world where information flows so freely and via so many platforms, translation professionals have never been busier as the communication demands of a global economy increase. The demand is clear, but how do universities like UNC Charlotte play a role in meeting such needs? What tools and experiences are necessary to prepare future translators and interpreters? How will students make the transition from the classroom to real-world situations as professional translators or interpreters?

The Department of Languages and Culture Studies has been preparing students as translators and interpreters for quite some time now. Students gain experience translating a variety of source language texts in multiple contexts and in a range of formats. Among the qualifications of skilled translators, accuracy and speed are highly valued. As such, students at UNC Charlotte begin their journey to capture the nuances of language as they impact a given audience, no mat-

ter where that audience is located around the world. At the same time, students begin to develop efficiency in translation as businesses often request translations within short timeframes. Ultimately, today's skilled translators need to possess strong subject matter expertise in conjunction with a thorough understanding of technical tools in order to successfully complete projects.

Students enrolled in multiple translation courses (TRAN 6472, TRAN 6474) during Fall 2016 had an opportunity to participate in a hands-on workshop offered by a representative of one of the major CAT Tools in the industry. A CAT tool, or "Computer-assisted Translation" tool, is a computer program that translation professionals use to efficiently translate a text. CAT tools are indispensable in the current language industry.

Ms. McKenzie Gatz, from SDL, introduced the Academic Program and explained how their company is



thinking of university students as they make the transition to professional settings as translators. In particular, Ms. Gatz highlighted how SDL supports new translators, and how universities can benefit in turn. Students were able to explore various features of the software and comprehend the use of such tools in several phases of the translating process.

The workshop was organized by Dr. Monica Rodriguez in close collaboration with SDL. SDL Academic Program has supported the Language Resource Center for the last two years with licensing of SDL Trados Studio, SDL Multiterm and SDL Passolo. These kinds of collaborations are crucial in preparing our graduate students to become successful translation professionals.

Hobgood honored at FLANC

In Fall 2016, the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina (FLANC) celebrated its 50th anniversary at its annual conference at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Conference Center in Research Triangle Park, NC. On the opening day of the conference, Dr. Bobby Hobgood, UNC Charlotte Director of the Language Resource Center, sat in the audience at a luncheon as he had done many times before. As he sat listening to the speakers, he never guessed that he was about to be presented with the organization's highest honor, the Honorary Life Membership Award. Having been a FLANC member for nearly a quarter century and having presented at the

conference 23 years in a row, the 50th anniversary of the Conference was a fitting time for Hobgood to be bestowed this honor. Describing how he felt when his name was announced, Hobgood said that "it was not announced in advance (and never is), so it was a total surprise to me and to the conference," and that "to be recognized by the leaders in foreign language education in our state is an honor I will carry with me."

Being recognized in this way is a public statement of my commitment to the teaching and study of world languages.

—Dr. Bobby Hobgood, FLANC 2016 Honorary Life Membership Award Winner

Membership in professional organizations such as FLANC has always been a significant component of Hobgood's professional learning network and in his acceptance speech he mentioned the contribution FLANC had made toward his professional growth and thanked his colleagues for the support and guidance they had provided via



FLANC over the years. Hobgood has been a valuable asset to FLANC for many years. In the speech leading up to the award, Hobgood was described as "the consummate language educator [who] certainly has earned the Honorary Life Membership Award through [his] dedication to learners of all ages," as well as, "a dedicated and

faithful presenter at FLANC, [and] a strong supporter of professional development for Foreign Language teachers." It was also noted, in a reference to his life-long interest in technology, that he "has always stayed

ahead of the curve with the latest technology trends and has helped teachers strengthen their language programs through that technology. If [he] were an app, it would be about how to love and nourish your own spirit while bringing together the power of friends, family, and the love of languages!"

Languages in Action

Students and Faculty engage in Languages and Culture Studies outside the classroom

The 3rd Annual Multi-Language Poetry Slam

For the third time, The Multi-Language Poetry Slam, organized by the Department of Languages and Culture Studies, was a...slam dunk! This year's event was held on Thursday September 25 and saw approximately 180 in attendance. There were fifteen participants including students and faculty who presented both translated and original works. Before the event, all participants submitted their entries through email for selection committee review. The selected poems included many different languages including Spanish, Yiddish, Hindi, Japanese, and Catalan. Event organizer, Professor Potrykus, Lecturer in German, observed that, as a result of the election cycle rhetoric, many of this year's presenters decided to recite poems about their experience as the "other." A panel of judges considered the participants for awards that included a cash prize. The categories

were: Best Translation, Most Original, Best Performed, and Best Haiku. The winner for Best Translation was Chance Williams, a Spanish major. This was the first time that Williams had ever performed a translation of his own and he felt especially intimidated by having to do so in front of such large audience. His first thought was: "Oh, no!," but he was able to overcome his fear once he was on stage performing. The poem he recited was originally a Spanish language poem titled "Cuando el alma gotea" which he translated to "When the Soul Dies" for his English translation. Not only was Williams the first person to ever translate this poem, but the poem's author, Eduardo Heredia, asked Williams for a signed copy of his translated version. This was an exciting bonus to go along with Williams' award for Best Translation. As far as the overall experience goes, Williams said he enjoyed listening to the original poems of the night's participants that were personal in nature because "it was powerful to hear them share their emotions, thoughts, and experiences."



Students visit ¡NUEVOlution! exhibit at the Levine Museum of the New South



¡NUEVOlution! Latinos and the New South was an exhibit at the Levine Museum of the New South that explored how Latinos are shaping the South and how the South is shaping them. The exhibit opened up last year on September 27, 2015 and was on display until November 27, 2016. Professor Susana Cisneros, Lecturer in Spanish, decided to take her classes to see the exhibit in order to give them a better understanding of the experiences and culture of Latinos in the United States. Cisneros divided students into groups. As they went through the exhibit, the groups were assigned a series of activities designed to promote active reflection. One activity re-

quired the students to walk backward and blindfolded through the exhibit's "stereotype tunnel" that played the voices of people voicing stereotypes about Latinos. Some of the students wrote that this made them feel negative, rejected, and curious. In another activity, students were required to attempt the citizenship test that immigrants must pass in order to become citizens. A majority of the students found the test difficult. After experiencing the exhibit, students were able to speak with the Latinos who staffed the event and the New South Coordinator at the museum, Oliver Merino, to learn more about the exhibit and the thought process behind its design.

El Día de los MUERTOS

Students learn about the Day of the Dead while honoring a beloved teacher at the Latin American Contemporary Art Projects



Students from the UNC Charlotte Spanish Club collaborated with Charlotte artist, Rosalia Torres-Weiner, for a Day of the Dead Celebration event held on October 29th at the Latin American Contemporary Art Projects—a gallery established as a platform for the presentation, development and promotion of Latin American contemporary art and culture. Torres-Weiner spoke to students about the Day of the Dead Celebration, as



well as explain the process and significance of the building of an altar for loved ones who have passed. The students then helped create an altar for Daniel Hassan. Mr. Hassan earned an undergraduate degree at UNC Charlotte and worked for the Department of Languages and Culture Studies as an adjunct professor before tragically passing away in April 2014. At the event, students were able to meet Mr. Hassan's wife and his child, who is now five years old. Meeting his family helped students better represent Mr. Hassan when building the altar, which, tradition holds, must include objects representing the things he enjoyed in life. One of the objects that students placed on the altar

was a potato because Mr. Hassan believed a meal was not complete unless it included potatoes. The event was free and attended by approximately 400 people including 9 students from the UNC Charlotte Spanish Club. The event included free food provided to the community, a costume contest, sugar-skull making for kids, and other performances. Overall, it was a festive event that celebrated both the lives of those who have passed away and an important tradition in Mexican culture.



The Poverty Simulation

In an effort to inspire her students to empathize with others, Susana Cisneros, Lecturer in Spanish, organized a poverty simulation—an interactive immersion experience that promotes poverty awareness and increased understanding.—with the collaboration of Gina Esquivel, Associate Director of Programs, Education and Civic Engagement at the Crisis Assistance Ministry in Charlotte. During the poverty simulation, students were divided into “Families” and given new identities. Using the new identities, students worked with their family members in order to “live on” an allotted amount of resources. Tables were set up around the perimeter of the



room that represented the different entities that families and individuals can utilize to manage resources such as a bank, grocery store, or social services. Cisneros invited community members to participate and play the role of the people providing the resources at these tables. As an additional obstacle, the community members only spoke



Spanish to the participants. This had the benefit of conveying the difficulty immigrants encounter when they arrive in a new country where people don't speak the same language. The students, a group of forty, had to “survive” for one hour using only their allotted resources, each fifteen minutes representing one week in real life.

“It was very enlightening. I try to be kind to people anyway, but I also want to be more aware of what is going on around me. I have noticed several people who are homeless in the area and I try to have a conversation with them when I can or give a little if I have it. I want to be more active in helping everyone moving forward and definitely be more aware of other people's needs and lives around me.”

—Stephen Bowman, a student participant

Campus Week:

Germany Meets the U.S.

German Program hosts a week of events promoting the study of U.S.-German Relationship

The German program hosted an event called Campus Week: Germany Meets the U.S.

Dr. Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, Associate Chair of the Department of Languages and Culture Studies, was instrumental in obtaining a grant from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany for the event. The grant was designated for the promotion of the study of the relationship between Germany and the United States. The events took place on the week of November 7th and initiated with a photo and essay exhibit, from student and faculty submissions. Overall, the week's programs saw about 650 attendees and the photo exhibit was the most popular event.

Another key element of the week's

programming was the screening of two documentary films. The first

was "Journey into Europe," which studied the experience of Muslim immigrants arriving in Europe. The second was the worldwide acclaimed film

"Die Fremde-When We Leave," which portrays the experiences and struggles of a young Turkish/German mother and her family.

The highlight of the week was the discussion with Philip Oprong Spenner, the author of "Move On Up." He discussed his motivational experience that was titled "From the Slums of Nairobi to Teaching in Germany." Despite many struggles and barriers, Spenner persevered and through education was able to find success in life. There was also a writing

Winners of the Campus Week Photo Contest



workshop provided for students by Mr. Oprong Spenner. The week sought to demonstrate to students and attendees that Germany is not homogenous, and to discuss how Germany has been impacted by the recent influx of immigrants.

These types of programs are important for UNC Charlotte and the larger Charlotte community because they open the doors to change and diversity.

—Chase Cox, German Major

German Majors Receive Scholarships at Reception

There is a strong German community presence in the greater Charlotte area. The German Language program at UNC Charlotte is playing an increasingly prominent role in this community along with other key players such as the Deutsche Schule Charlotte, a German immersion school. Additionally, there are 233 German companies that give scholarships through the German Language and Culture Foundation, in order to foment the expansion of German culture and language learning in the Charlotte region.

ON April 15, 2016 a scholarship reception was held in order to



award the foundation's scholarships for the coming year. The various scholarships awarded by the foundation are meant to aid up to 24 students gain exposure to German culture or their own German Heritage. Some students received scholarships to visit Berlin during Spring Break 2017. The Regina Waldthausen scholarship was awarded to two German majors in order to study in Hamburg and Dusseldorf over the summer. An-

other scholarship support 19 students who explored their German immigrant roots in Ellis Island and New York during the Spring of this year. These scholarships have allowed for students to begin an exploration of the language and culture of Germany that they hope to continue throughout their careers.

LCS Hosts Conference

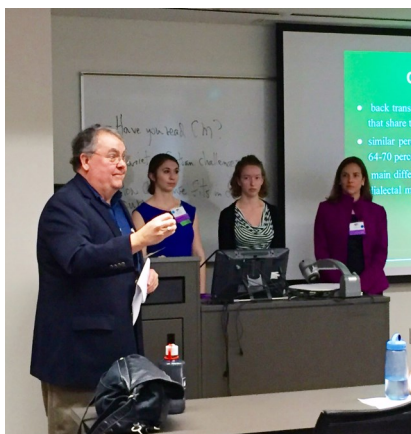
LCS Hosts 29th Annual Conference of Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters

How are corpora developed via crowd sourcing? How do interpreters manage terminology prior to an event? How does post-editing transform rough work into high quality translations?

These questions were among several key topics addressed at this year's 29th Annual Conference of the Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters (CATI). Held at UNC Charlotte's Center City building, translators, interpreters, and students from across the Carolina's convened to network and deepen their understanding of best practices and trends in the profession. Professor Monica Rodriguez and Mike Doyle collaborated with CATI leadership to bring the event to Center City for the first time, having previously hosted on the UNC Charlotte main campus.

The day-long event began with a greeting from Department Interim Chair Dr. Ann Gonzalez who welcomed attendees and set a tone for engagement throughout the conference, harkening the conference theme, Building Networks One Word at a Time. Keynote speaker Cris Silva, Coordinator of the Portuguese Translation Department at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, started the day's conversations with her overview of "Innovation in Translation and Interpretation." Silva's presentation highlighted how companies like eBay publish articles on machine translation via LinkedIn, how the Mormon Church leverages crowd sourcing to develop corpora for their missionaries worldwide, and how CASMACAT conducts research using eye-tracking technology to chart productivity as well as frustration in translators.

Throughout the day, attendees heard from experts in the field like Javier Castillo from Greenville, N.C. who shared the re-



quired skills to become an interpreter. During his session, "An Interpreter is an Interpreter (or Maybe Not)," he acknowledged that while an interpreter may be bilingual, bilinguals are not automatically interpreters. The nature and role of interpreters was further deconstructed by Dr. Chaowei Zhu who serves on the faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Wake Forest University. During his session, Dr. Zhu who specializes in business, financial, educational, and academic translating, noted for instance that medical interpreting requires so much knowledge and training with little reward. He concluded, "Interpreters ARE part of the medical team."

The Department of Languages and Cultures was well represented with two panel presentations. Professor Mike Doyle moderated a panel of graduate students who offered insight into "Issues in Translating Cormac McCarthy's *No Country for Old Men* into Spanish." Graduate students Carlie Herron, Ellie Rencher, and Rebecca Grimsley each presented their research on various challenges faced by translators as seen in this particular translation. Later in the day, Professor Monica Rodriguez along with a visiting PhD student, Maria Rubio Gragera, from University of Málaga presented two sessions related to translation technologies. Professor Rodriguez provided a preliminary overview of computer-assisted translation tools and engaged the audience in an in-depth discussion on integrating translation memories and using terminology management in conjunction with machine translation plug-ins during the translation process. The audience that participated in this panel also had the opportunity to ask questions about new courses on translation technologies currently offered in the translation curriculum at UNC Charlotte. Professor Concepción Godev shared information about UNC Charlotte's Translation Studies courses throughout the day in the exhibit area.

Japanese Studies Students participate in Leadership Conference in D.C.

UNC Charlotte Students, Haochen Tian and Dominique Walker, took part in the 2016 TOMADACHI Daiwa House Student Leadership Conference in Washington DC. The conference is an opportunity for leadership training, networking, learning about Japanese and Japanese-American contributions on a national

level, and strengthening the U.S.-Japan relationship. Tian and Walker participated in panels and breakout sessions that helped them to explore leadership values across cultures, learn about career opportunities in a variety of sectors and meet like-minded peers from universities throughout the region.



Service Learning

A student's perspective

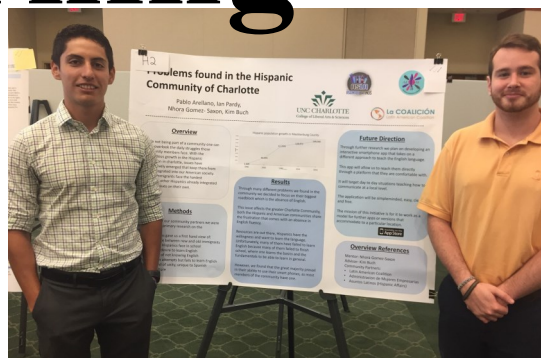
UNC Charlotte undergraduate student, Ian Pardy Rodríguez shares his experience as a participant in the Charlotte Community Scholars Program

The summer of 2016 is the perfect example of the growth of opportunity that keeps expanding in the city of Charlotte. My name is Ian Pardy Rodríguez and along with my teammate, Pablo Arellano, I worked on a research project on ways to better help the Hispanic community in Charlotte. This research was conducted through the UNC Charlotte program, Charlotte Community Scholars, and we were recommended by our Service Learning Professor Nhora Gomez-Saxon. Pablo worked in the Latin American Coalition with new immigrants in the communications department. I worked with Asuntos Latinos (Hispanic Affairs), where I dealt with community leaders, small business owners, Latino business women, and Mayor Jennifer Roberts.

From our observations and research, we concluded that (even though it's not a secret)

the Hispanic community struggles with incorporating itself into our society due to their lack of English proficiency. The desire to learn is there; in fact, many Hispanics do attempt to learn. Unfortunately, there are many complications that limit them from succeeding, such as the absence of a simple education and the hard transition from one country to another. Many Hispanics depend on their children or family members to translate for them, thereby minimizing the motivation to learn.

Another major observation we made is that everyone in the community seems to own a smart phone, in particular, an iPhone. As rising professionals, Pablo and I see this as a window of opportunity. Not only do we want to create an app that motivates people to speak another language, but also we wish to help out the community at a greater level.



Our idea is to create a smart phone application that moves away from traditional teaching methods, creating a simple, clean, accessible, free application that is meant to adapt to everyday life and situations. Users of the application can modify it to their learning style, daily activities, and how far into the language they want to go; for example, only learning to communicate in English about one's personal day to day needs.

Pablo and I decided that we will continue to work on this project, past the Charlotte Community Scholars program and past UNC Charlotte. Our time is valuable, and, therefore, we choose to make a difference by investing in this idea.

French Major Eileen Jakeway

Wins 1st prize at Charlotte Research Scholars Symposium

French major Eileen Jakeway and Dr. Allison Stedman, Associate Professor of French, participated in the Charlotte Research Scholars Program as a scholar/mentor team during the summer of 2016. Their project "Christian Humanism: Gabrielle de Coignard and the French Wars of Religion" centered on a female writer of the late 16th-century and her epic poem, the *Imitation de la victoire de Judich* [Imitation of Judith's Victory].

Working under Stedman's direction, Jakeway examined this poem in its historical, social and cultural contexts to further her study of Coignard's devotional poetry. As part of her summer research experience, Jakeway used funding provided by the Levine Schol-



ars Program to do archival research at the French National Library in Paris, where Stedman was also working.

One of Jakeway's major findings this summer was the revelation of parallels between the poem's protagonist (Judith) and its author (Coignard) that extend beyond the biographical and historical similarities previously noted by scholars. Whereas Coignard's

larger collection of devotional poetry, the *Œuvres chrétiennes* [Christian Works] can be said to function as an explicit prototype for religious devotional practices, the *Imitation*, advances a more implicit model for how the religious women of Coignard's time could negotiate the divide between private and public, transcending the domestic arena to which the majority of their influence was confined and acting instead as powerful agents of political change.

Jakeway presented this aspect of her research in a poster display at the Charlotte Research Scholars Symposium at UNC Charlotte on July 27 and was awarded first place in the category: "Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, and the Arts." Her work on Coignard is expected to culminate in a thesis of more than 100 pages this coming fall.

LANGUAGE BOOTHS AT I-FEST

LANGUAGE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE 2016 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The 2016 UNC Charlotte International Festival (commonly known as I-Fest) was held on Saturday, September 24th, 2016. This marked the 41st anniversary of this campus tradition. The International Festival is centered around booths arranged in colorful marketplace style representing the cultures of over 50 nations. The booths are staffed by UNC Charlotte international students and members of Charlotte's international community and feature art, crafts and costumes from each participating country. Many booths offer international food for sale.

At this year's event, students and faculty from the Department of Languages and Culture Studies participated at booths representing the languages of German, Japanese, French and Spanish.

German

At the International Festival, the UNC Charlotte German Club traditionally sells Bratwurst—a type of German sausage, usually from pork—in a bun with sauerkraut—fermented and finely cut cabbage—and chips. Not only is this a traditional German dish, but it was imported directly from the Germany state of Bavaria by a German immigrant in Charlotte. At the German Club's booth, the food was accompanied by German music and the display of interesting artifacts such as a piece of the Berlin Wall.



Assistant professor, Kai Uwe-Werbeck indicated that the specifics of the German Club's hard work included: "communicating with the Health Department representative, ordering and picking up bread rolls and brats, and, most importantly, being present at the booth during I-Fest: grilling brats, selling them, running errands, promoting German culture, and setting and cleaning up." The German Club officers not only used their profits to help plan a career fair for the Spring semester of 2017, but they also donated the remaining food to a shelter for abused women.

Spanish

The Spanish Club also participated in I-Fest with a booth representing the country of Argentina. Present at the booth, there were both current and former students. Students from the Spanish Club were in charge of deciding what to sell, how much to buy, and pricing. The day of the festival, they were also in charge of running the booth and selling the products. Susana Cisneros, Lecturer



Japanese

Moyu Ikuta, the president of the UNC Charlotte Japan Club, was a team leader of the Japan booth during I-Fest and she shared the details and overall success of the event. Ikuta explained that unlike other booths at the festival, volunteers at the Japan booth were mostly Japanese exchange students due to the lack of Japanese students and immigrants at UNC Charlotte and in the community. According to Ikuta, the most difficult part as a team leader was to recruit volunteers. After finding enough volunteers, meetings were held to discuss the logistics of stocking and staffing the booth. A day before the festival, the group prepared the food and ensured that all the details were in place for the event.

This year, the club decided to sell Karaage, which is a Japanese fried chicken and, not incidentally, one of the most popular food choices in Japan. The club successfully sold approximately 250 servings of Karaage,



which did not seem surprising to Ikuta given her experience with southerners and their love of fried foods. The booth also shared the beauty of Japanese calligraphy by translating the names of guests it into Japanese characters. The Japanese exchange students wrote about 300 names for attendees during the event!

in Spanish, helped out during the event by providing cultural information about Argentina to event attendees, as she is a native of the country. According to the students present, the I-Fest celebration was attended by fewer people than in past years, but there was still a good number of people who stopped by the Argentina booth to taste the empanadas and practice their Spanish.

[Kato named Post-secondary Teacher of the Year]

Professor Fumie Kato has been awarded Post-secondary Teacher of the Year by the American Association of Japanese (AATJ). Professor Kato was recognized for her accomplishments this November in Boston at the annual conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, the largest foreign language conference in the nation. Earlier this year, professor Kato was recognized by the Consul General of Japan in Atlanta, Takashi Shinozuka, and Consul, Tomoko Ohyama, in a ceremony at UNC Charlotte for her contribution to developing the Japanese major and successfully increasing student participation in the exchange programs between UNC Charlotte and Japanese universities.



Chair's Note

Department Chair, Dr. Ann González, reflects on the 2017 Fall Semester

Happy Holidays!
Once again we have had a very busy and productive Fall semester.

Graduate news: Our MA program in Spanish graduated its 100th student and created a new graduate certificate program in translation slated to begin next Fall that includes: French, German, Japanese, and Russian in addition to Spanish—all paired with English.

Undergraduate news: All of our staffs have been very active this semester. In Spanish, faculty have held over 20 *tertulias* or conversation tables this Fall. Susana Cisneros organized a Poverty Simulation in Spanish, and two legal panels. The Spanish club built an altar for *El Día de los Muertos* and for the first time participated along with French, German, and Japanese at a booth for I-Fest. German sponsored a week long "Germany Meets the U.S." program that included a photo/essay contest and a writing workshop with invited speaker and published author, Philip Spenner. Japanese sent two students, all expenses paid, to the Tomodachi Daiwa House Student



Gonzalez speaks at the 29th Annual Conference of the Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters hosted at UNC Charlotte.

Leadership Conference in Washington, co-hosted a meeting of the Japan America Society, and held another entertaining End-of-Year Program featuring student performances from all levels of Japanese instruction. Italian worked with the Honorary Consul of Italy to finalize plans for our first study abroad scholarship to Italy to be awarded this Spring for summer study in Milan. And Chinese moved forward with plans to establish a Confucius Institute to be housed in our department. In regard to curriculum, German is completely overhauling its major; Spanish is now offering a new double major option, and Japanese is adding an undergraduate Translation Certificate.

Department news: One of the best features of our de-

partment is our enthusiasm in supporting multi-lingual projects and events. It is always rewarding to work with colleagues across languages to support our students and engage with the community. We had four extremely successful events of this type this Fall beginning with our celebration in September of International Translation Day. This day-long event included presentations about the field as well as translation workshops in multiple languages. We plan to make this an annual event and are already planning for next year. We also invited a noted researcher of interpretation studies, Dr. Olgierda Furmanek from Wake Forest University, who spoke to some 50 attendees. For the third year in a row we hosted the always entertaining multi-lingual poetry slam with poems in English, Spanish, Japanese, Catalan, Hebrew, and Hindi. And finally, Spanish and German hosted a lovely Winterfest evening for students and faculty to sing Christmas carols and enjoy holiday treats.

We are looking forward to Spring semester and to hosting our extremely popular International Film Festival. In the meantime, pleasant winter vacation to all and safe travels!



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College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

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