

Fall 2019

THE POLYGLOT PRESS

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Photo Credit: Julia Geaney-Moore

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 1. Letter from the Chair
- 3. Special Events
- 12. Student Achievements
- 16. Faculty Achievements
- 19. Alumni Achievements
- 20. In Memoriam



UNC CHARLOTTE
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Department of Languages & Culture Studies

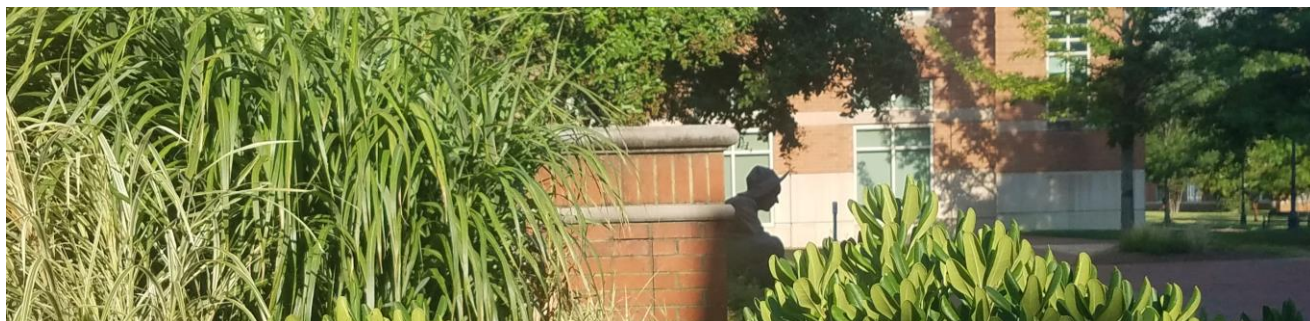
A WORD FROM THE CHAIR (FALL 2019)



Once again, the Department of Languages and Culture Studies has had a busy fall semester hosting a number of widely advertised events: a celebration of International Translation Day, which paired up middle school students with college mentors, hosted workshops and readings and invited speakers; German Campus Week (funded by the German Embassy) which celebrated 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall with a number of activities, including a film screening, invited talks, and an exhibit about the Berlin Wall translated by the German translation class; and finally the Career Booster Germany (funded by the Goethe Institut) that hosted some 360 high school students from around the state.

We also said goodbye to two long-time colleagues and friends, both of whom continued their work for the university well into retirement: Robert Gleaves, Ph.D. (1938-2019) and Susan Cernyak-Spatz, Ph.D. (1922-2019). Gleaves was chair of the department from 1982-1988 and continued to teach graduate and undergraduate classes in Latin American Literature, during summer semesters for many years after his retirement in 2003. Dr. Cernyak-Spatz created and taught a well-respected course on the Holocaust, which the German program continues to offer on a regular basis. Only two years ago, at the age of 95, Dr. Cernyak-Spatz accompanied a group of German majors to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. There she told her impressive story of survival from the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp to another group of young people. We will miss them both.

Finally, we will undergo another major transition at the end of December. I will be stepping down as Chair after four and a half years and Michele Bissière, Ph.D. will be your new Chair.



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR (FALL 2019 Continued)

It has been an intense four and a half years, filled with hard work and enormous progress. We have grown together as a department and now find ourselves in a very good place from which to continue to improve while offering superior service to our students.

I want to list, in no particular order, some of our major accomplishments over this time period, that we can all be proud of: We established and implemented a successful Confucius Institute; we redesigned and refurbished the entire fourth floor of the College of Education Building, including our Language Resource Center - to ensure that we have enough new offices and classrooms to grow, as well as space for active learning; up-to-date technology and accessibility; we had a colleague (Bissière, Ph.D.) recognized with the Bank of America Excellence in Teaching Award and the Board of Governor's Teaching Award; another colleague (Allison Stedman, Ph.D.) won a prestigious NEH fellowship; as a faculty, we have more than doubled our research productivity; and we have been rated second (German), fourth (Japanese) and twenty-first (Spanish) nationally for numbers of degrees awarded. We have hired five new tenure track faculty and eight new lecturers and added two new graduate certificates and several new undergraduate ones.

Every year we have recognized both our faculty and our students for their outstanding achievements and this year is no different. We hope you enjoy reading about our successes this Fall. I am sure we will continue to move forward under the leadership of Michele Bissière, I have offered her all of my support and will be actively involved in the transition. It has been an honor to serve this department.

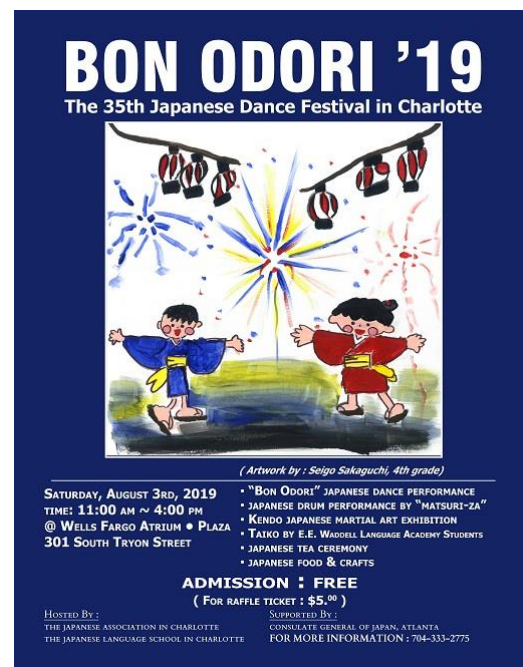
SPECIAL EVENTS

Bon Odori Festival



Back row from left: Jason Roberts, Jeremi Reece, Amos Avila, Harrison Syfert, Ricky Young, Hannah Guffey, Connor Bayer, Daniele Peché, and Yukiko Yokono. Second row: Keiichiro Honda, Hiroto Saito, Asa Saita, and Tumisang Mabaso. Front row: Temitope Aladenika, and Joshua Miller. Photo credit: Shoko Tokoro

Bon Odori Taikai is the annual Japanese summer dance festival, hosted by the Japanese Association in Charlotte. This year, marked the 35th anniversary in August at the Wells Fargo Atrium in uptown Charlotte. It serves as a great opportunity for my students and I to volunteer for the event, experiencing Japanese culture, and interacting with people in the Charlotte community. This past summer, nine students helped at various booths: Japanese tea ceremony, kimono fitting, calligraphy, and information desk. This festival is a rare opportunity for students to speak Japanese to natives. Although nervous at first, students gradually get more comfortable with the atmosphere and enjoy the entire event. We truly appreciate the warm welcome from the Japanese Association in Charlotte.



Student Ricky Young, Photo credit: Yukiko Yokono

SPECIAL EVENTS (Continued)

Society for Interdisciplinary French Seventeenth-Century Studies Convention

Allison Stedman, Professor of French, was in charge of the organization of the annual Society for Interdisciplinary French Seventeenth-Century Studies Convention (SE17). The convention was held in Charlotte, NC, in October and attended by scholars from all across the United States, Europe and Canada. UNC Charlotte sponsors included the Department of Languages and Culture Studies, the Department of History, the Office of International Programs, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Arts + Architecture. The convention also received support from the Department of Romance Studies at UNC Chapel Hill, the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures and the Humanities Center at the University of Rochester and the Alliance Française de Charlotte. Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, Ph.D., Associate Chair of the Department of Languages and Culture Studies and Joël Gallegos, Assistant Provost for International Programs welcomed the participants at a rooftop reception held on the terrace of the Holiday Inn Charlotte - Center City.



Photo: Stedman, Ph.D. (in white), with students past and present. From left, undergraduate French major Sandra Arroyo-Becker, graduate student in the Translation Studies program and former UNCC French major, Elouise Miny, and Katharina LaPorta, undergraduate French major at Bucknell University, currently a professor of French at NYU.

Conference participants concurred that the convention was among the most successful in the history of the society. The best part of the meeting for Stedman, was the opportunity to have three “generations” of her own students attend the same convention. “It was an incredibly rewarding experience to be able to introduce one of my former undergraduate students from Bucknell University, who is now a professor at NYU, to my current graduate and undergraduate students at UNC Charlotte. Each of these students had either taken, or was in the process of taking my undergraduate ‘Introduction to French Literature from the Middle Ages to the French Revolution’ class. At the convention, they bonded over having mastered some difficult seventeenth-century texts, such as Racine’s 1667 classical tragedy *Andromaque*,” Stedman said.

SPECIAL EVENTS (Continued)

Challenging Stereotypes of Muslims and Arabs

In November, UNC Charlotte students had the opportunity to hear Hesham Issawi, an award-winning filmmaker who divides his time between Los Angeles and Cairo, Egypt. Issawi began his talk with a special focus on how independent films in the U.S. challenge the Arab and Muslim stereotypes in mass media and Hollywood films through discussing his first major film “American East.” Set in post 9/11 Los Angeles, “American East” won Best Picture at the Madrid Film Festival in 2008. Issawi also spoke about filmmaking in Egypt and the challenges of censorship and freedom of speech he faced in making his film “Cairo Exit,” shot onsite in Cairo in 2010. The Egyptian censors rejected his script, so he was forced to make the film without government permits.

Issawi, a graduate of Columbia College Chicago, was invited to UNC Charlotte by Noha Ghali, Ph.D., lecturer in Arabic Studies and the head of the Arabic Film Club, Sidrah Maroti. Issawi explained the role of independent cinema in facing the challenges Arab and Muslim American actors and directors experience in narrating their stories and communities and deconstructing the stereotypes about them. The talk was followed by a question and answer session in which 30 UNC Charlotte students participated. This event is part of the extra-curricular activities of the Arabic Studies Program and was open to the UNC Charlotte community. The extra-curricular activities of the Arabic Studies Program promote and enhance student’s awareness of the Arab community within the Arab world and presents the challenges faced while living in the U.S.

In addition, it also introduced students to the obstacles that artists may face in countries with government censorship. These topics advance the discernment of students in achieving comprehensive and all-encompassing perspective awareness of the world. Cultural events foster a welcoming campus character that validates all and supports learning regarding the histories and perspectives of a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds and groups.



Photo Credit: Leila Abu-hassan

SPECIAL EVENTS (Continued)

NEW: Language Internship

After two years of negotiations, we finally have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The memorandum will allow us to place students with teachers in several of the language immersion programs in the area, as well as in other language classes. Participating schools include: Independence High School, Waddell Language Academy, Collinswood Language Academy and South Mecklenburg High School, among others. We will be able to offer internships in all of the majors (French, German, Japanese, and Spanish), as well as some of the minors (Chinese and Arabic).

The internship (LACS 4410: Professional Internship) consists of 120 hours of work **in the language** as directed by the language instructor. This could be help with remediation, participation in pair work, group work, giving cultural presentations, chaperoning field trips and planning or participating in other activities where the intern can serve as a language model. However, this internship is **not** designed as student teaching for education or licensure. It is a three-hour upper level course that will count toward a language major or minor and offer opportunities to use the language with students and teachers in the public school system.

In addition to the 120 hours, students will post a weekly journal and a log of their hours. At the end of the semester, students will be expected to write a reflective paper about their experience, and give an oral presentation to a language class or a language club. The journals and papers are in English and the presentation can be in either language or both as appropriate. Interns have completed or should be taking all 3000-level language courses before applying for the internship.

The purpose of the internship is both to give additional opportunities to our students to use the language they are studying, and to expose them to the professional world of work. Our college students are expected to set a good example for public school students, to dress for the job, to be punctual and courteous, to respect all school rules and student privacy, and to encourage public school students in their study of the foreign language that the intern loves.

SPECIAL EVENTS (Continued)

International Translation Day

The Department of Languages and Culture Studies recognized the importance of translators and interpreters by celebrating International Translation Day in September. The International Federation of Translators established International Translation Day in 1991 to promote solidarity and draw attention to the global importance of translation. September 30 is the official day for this celebration, and it coincides with the Feast of Saint Jerome who, as a translator of the Latin Vulgate Bible, is considered to be the patron saint of translators, scholars, and librarians. The Department of Languages and Culture Studies hosts this annual event to celebrate translation as a profession, as well as to serve as a literary bridge to other cultures. This year we were successful in gathering faculty, students, community partners, as well as guest speakers from the Charlotte Metro region to celebrate indigenous languages.

With the help of our volunteer Ella Stumpf, the organizing committee (David Boyd, Ph.D., Monica Ji, Mary LaMarca, Ph.D., Aura Lawson-Alonso, Yongling Gorke, Ph.D., Monica Rodriguez, Ph.D., Chair) coordinated panel discussions where local translation companies such as Precise Translating and Choice Translating were represented. Faculty (Michael Doyle, Ph.D., Jeff Killman, Ph.D. and Monica Rodriguez, Ph.D.) and alumnus Daniel Vallejo '16 also participated in the panel discussion on the professional aspects of translation and encouraged students to engage in professional development. The event also featured a school visit from the students of Quail Hollow Middle to showcase careers in translation and interpreting, and mentor an enthusiastic group of students. Other activities included an open house for students interested in translation and interpreting programs, that was led by our dedicated graduate and undergraduate advisors; and a popular "untranslatable word game."

In the afternoon, the highlight of the program was the literary readings that featured professional translators and students in such languages as Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Nahuatl, and Russian.

The event was a great success and represented the vitality of the translation and interpreting professions, as well as the transformative power of cultural diversity.

SPECIAL EVENTS (Continued)

Career Booster Germany

The Career Booster Germany event was organized by Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, Ph.D. in collaboration with the Goethe Institut in Washington, D.C. The event was on November 18, in the Student Activity Center. More than 350 high school and university students from the state attended, all with an interest in learning German.



The first half of the day was a rotation of workshops led by UNC Charlotte German professors and representatives from German companies. A Career Fair was held during the morning where students could speak with representatives from German companies in the United States, as well as learn about the German programs here at the University (German Club, Education Abroad, German majors, minors, certificates, etc.). Following the provided lunch, there was a panel discussion with UNC Charlotte German graduates telling their stories. Klaus Becker, the Honorary Consul of Germany, introduced the panel discussion and welcomed the students.



SPECIAL EVENTS (Continued)

Career Booster Germany

Panelists of the UNC Charlotte German program discussed their experiences and how German impacted their careers. Among them were representatives from a German furniture company, German National Soccer League (Bundesliga), German robotics company, law firm, computer science and global studies graduate students.



The purpose of the Career Booster was to educate local youth, who are interested in the German language, about all the opportunities available to them. Students who attended left with the knowledge that German launches careers, here and abroad. They also saw that the process of learning German builds community and social skills for the future.



From stories of studying in Germany, to books about the fall of the Berlin Wall, this was an impressive opportunity for attendees to learn about German language and history. Students around North Carolina are now aware of all the ways they will be supported if they choose to come to UNC Charlotte to study German, and how valuable German will be in any career they choose.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Millennium Fellowship Program

For the first time this fall, UNC Charlotte was a campus hub for the highly prestigious Millennium Fellowship program, with 20 undergraduates from across the university chosen as Millennium Fellows to implement their LIFE Skills Initiative.

The university was one of just 69 – or 6% – named this year from over 1,200 applicant campuses from 135 nations and was the only one selected in North Carolina. Other universities chosen in the United States included Arizona State University, Cornell University, Georgetown University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Harvard University.

Supported by the Millennium Campus Network and the United Nations Academic Impact program, the Millennium Fellowship global program choose student leaders and campuses for the semester-long student leadership development effort. The initiative helped students strengthen their communities while advancing the [United Nations Sustainable Development goals](#).

Through the fellowship program, the UNC Charlotte student team developed a community-focused LIFE Skills Initiative, centered on Lifestyle, Interpersonal, Finance and Education skills.

“I anticipate that the LIFE Skills Initiative will help its participants to increase awareness of their actions and choices as they prepare for their futures. I see the program helping students become more aware of their financial decisions and their emotional intelligence,” said UNC Charlotte Campus Director Janessa Schwallie, who is majoring in mechanical engineering and German.

The UNC Charlotte scholars worked with students at high schools in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools with the highest concentrations of low-income students to help them gain access to resources designed to build life skills. The UNC Charlotte team’s ultimate goal was to contribute to efforts to break the cycle of poverty. They were aware that this was an ambitious goal, and they identified challenges they tackled up-front.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (Continued)

Millennium Fellowship Program

“Our project is a combination of all ideas submitted by interested UNC Charlotte students,” said Campus Director Sahithi Meduri, a computer science major. “Janessa and I wanted to make sure that we were working on a project where everyone pitched in, and everyone would be interested in working on it. We narrowed it down to the focus of quality education because it was a common interest of the group.”

“Since having a positive impact isn’t something that happens in a day or overnight, the biggest challenge will be making sure we are bringing something new and effective to the table,” Meduri said. “Every student is different, and we want to make sure we are helping them in the areas they need help the most.”

“The students deserve the accolades for theirs and the university’s selection,” said Jennifer Warner, who encouraged the students to apply. “This is a very prestigious award, and the students chosen as Millennium Fellows are committed to addressing an important community issue, while also inspiring people to seek ways to make change happen,” she said. “Our student leaders worked incredibly hard to find a project, meet with interested students, and get each student’s primary and secondary applications through. They deserve so much credit.”

Warner, who directs the LEADS program in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and is a faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences, partnered with Mary Jo Shepherd, a faculty member in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration who administers the Model United Nations program at UNC Charlotte, to guide the students. They remained involved in a volunteer advisory role with the fellows.

“We are so excited for these students and for the university,” Shepherd said. “We expect some creative solutions from these students, and we also know they will elevate their leadership as they learn from and challenge each other around the important issue they have chosen to consider. We saw this process as another significant way for students throughout the university to develop their leadership skills and expand their vision.”

Article written by Lynn Roberson

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS (Continued)

First Student to Graduate with the German for Engineering, Undergraduate Certificate



North Carolina is home to one of the largest contingents of German subsidiaries and related companies in the nation. In addition, more than 750 US companies do business in Germany and more than 1000 German companies to business in the US. The job market for American engineering students with knowledge of German language and culture is big. Nicholas St. Clair, an Engineering and German double major, is the first student who completed the new Certificate of German for Engineering. The certificate provides classroom, overseas (optional) and practical training in German language and culture for Engineering. The certificate requires 12 credit hours. Beginning with a third- and fourth-semester course in German language, the sequence continues with two required seminars on German-American culture for Business and Engineering. For double majors, we offer a study abroad scholarship in cooperation with the University of Kassel and the German Language and Culture Foundation (GLCF). Students can spend a month in Kassel (Germany), living with a host family while taking intensive German classes and classes on German engineering at the University of Kassel. During the program students visit German engineering companies and make valuable connections for the future. Nicholas St. Clair will graduate in May 2020. After graduation, he plans to work for a German automotive company, ideally for BMW in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He hopes his future career will lead him back to Germany for a year or two to hone his language and culture skills even further. We congratulate Nicholas on his achievement and wish him all the best for his future!

-Article written by Bianca Potrykus



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS (Continued)

German Student Achievement: Mason Reynolds

We know there are many pathways to success beyond college. In truth, such planning begins *before* graduation. For example, you might study business or engineering in hopes of applying for jobs with large companies where such skills are required. Do you know that your options for employment are dramatically expanded when you also demonstrate mastery of a language, other than English? In other words, majoring in a language in addition to a major in another discipline increases your options and "employability." Such is the case for UNC Charlotte graduate student Mason Reynolds '19.

As an undergraduate double major in German and Computer Science with a focus on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Mason could not have imagined how his hard work would lead him to a paid internship. After his sophomore year, Reynolds studied abroad in Göttingen, Germany and knew that he wanted to experience more German culture. Upon his return, he spoke with German professor Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, Ph.D., who suggested he consider an internship in Germany as an option for further developing his language skills while also gaining experience related to his other major. He was introduced to the German-American Exchange which facilitates international internships in German for American college students. Within a relatively short amount of time, he received numerous calls from German-based companies, leading to interviews with two of them. Ultimately, he chose to work with a lesser-known company, Gerhard Shubert, where he could put his background in AI and robotics to use. He spent the summer of 2019 in Germany helping the company develop systems for one of their robotics projects. This was his first professional work experience.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS (Continued)

German Student Achievement: Mason Reynolds



Prior to departure, Reynolds felt confident about his knowledge of robotics, having taken an advanced course at UNC Charlotte. He was less sure of his ability to communicate and to know the technical language needed to collaborate with German co-workers in a new setting. In particular, he was aware that the dialect of the region where he would work would be different from the Hochdeutsch, or "standard German" he had learned at UNC Charlotte. Fortunately, his coworkers were very supportive and willing to help him as he developed a familiarity with the dialect. During morning meetings, Reynolds would speak in standard German while his coworkers would ask him questions in the local dialect. He appreciated their willingness to switch to standard German in order to effectively carry out these daily meetings.

Reynolds chose German because he knew it would be valuable for a career in robotics. For undergraduates interested in a career that requires living and/or working abroad, he recommends first taking courses in a language that interests you. Next, he suggests engaging a professor or advisor to explore program and career options. He shares that ". . . professors in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies are very willing to discuss options and assist with planning as a major, double-major, or minor." Next, he advises attending career fairs and special events hosted by the Department or the University. Such events offer great networking opportunities with other like-minded individuals. He also advocates for planning early. Mason decided later in his undergraduate path to begin German, but feels that he would have benefitted from more time to learn the language.

Before returning to the states at the end of the internship, the leadership at Gerhard Shubert inquired about Reynolds' plans following the completion of his Masters in Spring 2020. The company offered him a full-time job and, in addition, the opportunity to earn a Ph.D. at the University of Stuttgart *while* working for the company, at their expense. The combination of the two offerings will allow Reynolds the opportunity to work in AI and robotics, while also engaging in university-level research. Graduates from computer science programs rarely begin working directly in the field of robotics. For Mason Reynolds, studying a language and seeking out internships paved a pathway of promise for this UNC Charlotte Niner.

Article written by Bobby Hobgood, Ed.D.



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Meet a New Faculty Member in Spanish: Javier García León, Ph.D.

"I am an Assistant Professor of Spanish Linguistics at the Department of Languages and Culture Studies. I hold a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Ottawa, an M.A. in Linguistics from *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*, and a B.Ed. in Humanities: Spanish and English from *Universidad Pedagógica Nacional* (Colombia). I have been conducting interdisciplinary research in language, power, and representation for the last eight years. First, I worked on Languages in Contact (Spanish and Creole Languages in the Caribbean) and on Linguistic Attitudes and Policies (Colombia). Currently, my work is on Critical Discourse Analysis, Queer Linguistics, and Latin American LGBTQI+ Cultural and Media Studies. In particular, I am examining the representation of transgender people in Colombian newspapers and audiovisual journalism for the past two decades. My work has been published in journals, such as: *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, *Revista de Estudios Colombianos*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Lingüística y Literatura*, *Lenguaje*, *Cuadernos de Lingüística Hispánica*, and *Boletín de Filología*.

"I am actively involved in the profession in North America and Colombia. For instance, I serve as Associate Editor for the *Spanish Journal of Applied Linguistics* and as a member of the Editorial Board of *Rastros Rostros Journal*. For several years, I also worked as an Editorial Assistant for *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos*. I have taught Spanish and Linguistics at a variety of institutions, specifically in Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, and Canada. Also, I enjoy traveling and exploring new cultures. Last summer I visited Croatia, Greece, and Spain, and before moving to Charlotte, I had the opportunity to explore Newfoundland in Canada. I also love languages; in addition to Spanish, I also speak French, English, and Trinidadian English Creole.

"So far, I am enjoying my time at UNC Charlotte. It has been a great pleasure teaching passionate and motivated students, as well as working with supportive and friendly colleagues."

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS (Continued)

Chris Mellinger Interviewed by Anthony Pym

Chris Mellinger, Ph.D., was interviewed in September, at the European Society for Translation Studies conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Anthony Pym is a leading figure in the field of translation studies. Pym has written and edited 28 books and 205 articles on his area of expertise: translation.

The interview was a great chance to talk about research, and some of the issues facing translation and interpreting studies today. The interview with Mellinger is available on [YouTube](#).



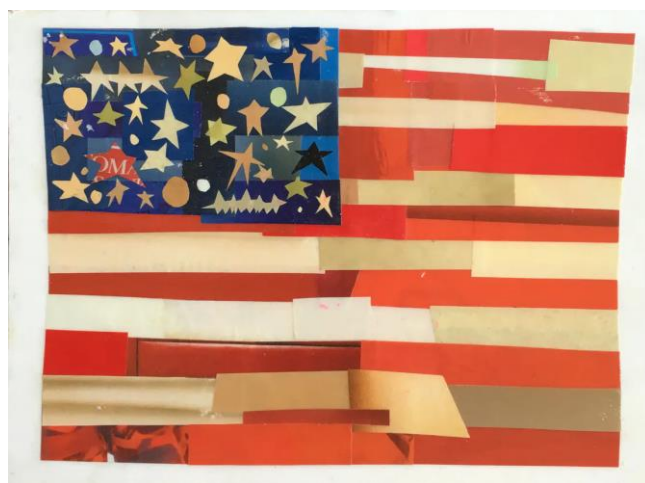
“Pym is a well-respected colleague in the field, and it was a pleasure, and an honor to be included in his interview series of translation scholars. I appreciated the chance to talk to him about my research, translation and interpreting studies in the U.S., and where the field may be headed.”
- Chris Mellinger, Ph.D.

Will Davis Awarded Arts Grant

The winners of the Celebrate Charlotte Arts initiative, those who show artistic excellence in the Charlotte region, were announced on September 20. Nearly 200 artists and organizations applied. However, only 12 groups were awarded grants. Among those 12 was Film Studies Lecturer William S. Davis '09.

Davis has been awarded \$12,920 of the total share given by the Knight Foundation. The award goes towards an art project titled “Foothills,” which will be a series of interactive dioramas with music. These will be displayed throughout the city of Charlotte in 2020.

The Knight Foundation, a national foundation formed by brothers John S. and James L. Knight, invests in cities where the Knight owned newspapers.



Art Credit: Will Davis

For more information please visit the knightfoundation.org website.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS (Continued)

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Javier García León, Ph.D., wrote his doctoral dissertation on the representation of transgender people in Colombia and Venezuela: “¿Miedo a las trans? La representación de las personas transgénero en la industria latinoamericana. El caso de Colombia y Venezuela.” His research won the BETA Félix Hangelini 2019 award. The recognition includes the publication of his dissertation as a peer-reviewed book.

Phil Kaffen, Ph.D., was awarded a grant from the Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago for \$500 to travel to collections.

Fumie Kato, Ph.D., was awarded a grant from the Japan Foundation for \$3,400 for expenses related to a book project: “Strategies for Growing and Enhancing University-Level Japanese Programs.”

Bobby Hobgood, Ed.D., Director of the Language Resource Center, completed Quality Matters certification for his online graduate course, "Advanced Methods for Foreign Languages and Advanced Pedagogy for TESOL." The Quality Matters rubric consists of a set of eight General Standards and 42 Specific Review Standards used to evaluate the design of online and blended courses.

Chris Mellinger, Ph.D., was named to the board of The Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation (SSTI), which is the academic and research branch of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT).

Sandra Watts, Ph.D., has been accepted into the Active Learning Academy and been appointed to the team that focuses on Active Learning for Faculty Teaching Online (and/or QMCD Grads).

Phil Kaffen, Ph.D., presented in October on graphic novels at Atkins Library in conjunction with the traveling exhibit “Graphic Medicine: Ill-Conceived & Well Drawn!”

IN MEMORIAM



Robert Gleaves, Ph.D., passed away on August 16, 2019. He received his Ph.D. in Spanish from Vanderbilt University. Bob taught at the University of South Florida, before coming to UNC Charlotte in 1969. He served as Chair of the department from 1982-1988 and as Associate Chair from 2000 until his retirement in 2003. He served on countless university committees and was the author of the first Missions and Goals statement for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Gleaves estimated that he taught Elementary Spanish classes 92 times over his career at UNC Charlotte. Bob developed the first Writing Intensive class in the department, Hispanic Literature in English Translation. He was especially fond of Latin American poets, such as Pablo Neruda, and taught many classes focusing on Poets of the Hispanic World. He also directed summer programs in Puerto Rico, Mexico and Costa Rica.

Dr. Gleaves was an early adopter of computer technology. He served on the department's Computing Advisory Committee for many years, and presented at the First North Carolina Assessment of Education Computing Conference. Bob developed "French and Spanish Character Sets for Atari Computers," for the SOFTSWAP collection of foreign language programs for educators in the 1980s.

Dr. Gleaves continued to teach Spanish literature in the summer sessions at UNC Charlotte for many years after his retirement. He exhibited admirable patience with his students.

IN MEMORIAM



Susan Cernyak-Spatz, Ph.D., Associate Professor Emerita of German, passed away on November 17, 2019, at 97. A survivor of concentration camp Theresienstadt and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, as well as the death march in January 1945, Dr. Cernyak-Spatz was a pioneer of Holocaust Studies, a field that barely existed when she earned her Ph.D. in 1973 at the University of Kansas. She taught German Language and Literature in the department from 1972 to 1992 and as emerita from 1992 to 2019. Dr. Cernyak-Spatz was instrumental in the creation of Holocaust Studies and in the creation of the Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies at UNC Charlotte.

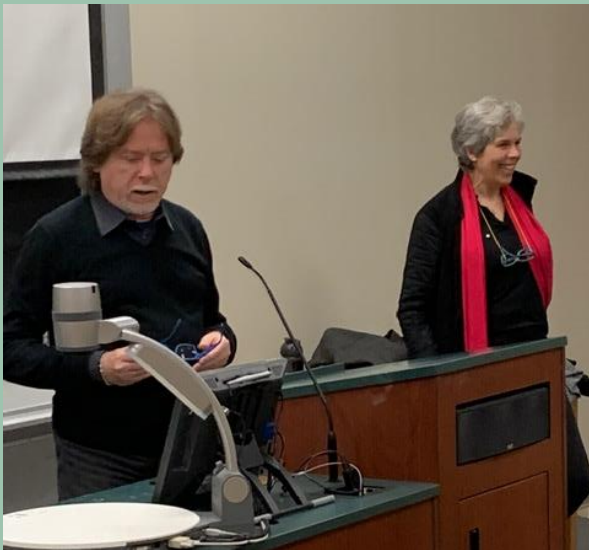
For the last four decades, she gave countless talks at schools, community centers, synagogues, and universities in the United States, Germany, and elsewhere. She was unyielding in her efforts to prevent the rise of anti-Semitism and any attempt to overthrow postwar democracies, especially in Central Europe. Dr. Cernyak-Spatz was a forceful advocate against the rise of anti-Semitism and white supremacy in North America and beyond. She never failed to warn her many audiences about how dictatorship can arise, and about the necessity of “thinking critically and maintaining your humanity and solidarity with others,” as she explained.

Dr. Cernyak-Spatz’s memoir, *Protective Custody: Prisoner 34042*, was published in 2005, and was the basis of a documentary film. In addition, it was the inspiration for a theatrical production that saw its world premiere in November 2019, presented by Three Bone Theater, under the direction of famed Charlotte director, Dennis Delamar.

ITALIAN OPERA INSIGHTS

On Tuesday, November 5, our students and faculty were invited to the event *"Introducing Giuseppe Verdi's MacBeth Opera: a Lecture by Maestri Meena and Stefanutti"*.

Macbeth by Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi was a new production featured at the Blumenthal Theater by Opera Carolina, November 7, 9 and 10.



Maestro James Meena, the Opera Carolina Orchestra Conductor and Maestro Ivan Stefanutti, the Director of the Scenery Design, introduced our students to Verdi's *MacBeth*, and their profession. The Opera Carolina graciously offered 15 free tickets for the Opera to our students. The event was organized by Daniela Cunico Dal Pra, Ph.D., and the UNC Charlotte Italian Club.



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Managing Editor: Julia Geaney-Moore

Writers: Faculty of the Department of Languages and Culture Studies

Photographs courtesy of the Department of Languages and Culture Studies

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Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, Ph.D., Susanne Gomoluch, Ph.D., Carol Hartley, and last but
not least; Ann Gonzalez, Ph.D.**