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UNC CHARLOTTE
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Department of Languages & Culture Studies



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR (FALL 2018)

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As we get settled into our spring semester, I wanted to thank all of you, faculty, staff, and students, for making the fall so successful. Once again, we have participated in a full list of activities, events, accomplishments, and honors. For the first time, we successfully offered a **fall break trip to Paris**. Our department placed 5 **interns in the German American Exchange Internship Program 2018**, more than any other universities that participated in the selection process, including UNC Chapel Hill, Wake Forest, and Emory University. For the first time, we participated in the **Summer School in Rome Program** (June 2018) that has traditionally been run exclusively by the College of Arts and Architecture. We have added Italian language and culture to the summer course offerings through the participation of **Dr. Daniela Dal Pra**, Coordinator of the Italian minor. The program is offered every two years and we expect to expand our offerings for summer 2020. Our first undergraduate and graduate translation courses to be converted to **online delivery** by **Dr. Jeff Killman** were awarded the prestigious Quality Matters Certification. The **minor in Arabic** was approved. **Honors** across the languages were approved. Now students in any language can graduate with Honors! A **conversation group in Arabic** was begun as an extra-curricular activity to promote students' speaking skills. We also have conversation tables in French and Spanish. We celebrated the third annual **Translation Day**, with panels, workshops, presentations, and prizes in the Fall. And we dedicated a new endowed **scholarship** for undergraduate study abroad to Japan donated by the Read family in honor of their son, Samuel. These are just some of the many activities we can report since our last newsletter. Our faculty have had an outstanding semester as well. **Dr. Michèle Bissière**, Professor of French, was awarded the **2018 UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching**. **Dr. Bobby Hobgood**, Director of the LRC, was also awarded a full scholarship to the CCL Leadership development program in Greensboro, NC. In November FLANC (Foreign Language Association of North Carolina) voted his presentation as one of the TEN BEST in the 2018 FLANC Annual Fall Conference.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR (FALL 2018) (Continued)

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Dr. Chris Mellinger, Assistant Professor of Spanish, won the **EST Translation Prize** and was also invited to give a keynote address at the 5th International Conference on Cognitive Research on Translation and Interpreting at Renmin University of China. **Dr. Noha Ghali**, Lecturer in Arabic, completed her Ph.D. in Education at the University of New Mexico. She also received her Certificate from ACTFL as an OPI tester of Arabic. **Dr. Jeff Killman** has been invited to serve as a Quality Matters Associate Faculty Fellow by the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of Distance Education. **Dr. Phillip Kaffen** received a UNC Charlotte Diversity Grant along with **Dr. Alexandra Kaloyanides**, a colleague from Religious Studies. **Dr. Kai Werbeck**, Assistant Professor of German, was invited to teach over the summer at the prestigious Deutsche Sommerschule am Pazifik, a five week full-immersion program at Lewis Clark College in Portland, OR. He was also invited to lecture at Sewanee: The University of the South on German Horror Cinema. **Dr. Anton Pujol**, Associate Professor of Spanish, was invited to give a keynote address at the University of Richmond. And we welcomed to the faculty a new Assistant Professor of Japanese and an expert on translation, **Professor Enika Banerjee**, a new Lecturer in Japanese, and Professor **Will Davis**, a new Lecturer in Film Studies.

None of these things would make any difference, however, if it were not for our amazing students. **Mitchell Habovick** and **May Shaihor**, both Japanese majors, were awarded the Freeman ASIA scholarship (\$7,000) to support study abroad during the academic year. **Imani Williams**, a Spanish major, won a scholarship to study abroad in Costa Rica. **Jordan Costanza**, an Italian minor, received the 2018 First National Prize of the AATI College Essay Contest (American Association of Italian Teachers). **Vincenzo Conciatori**, representing the Italian Club at UNC Charlotte, was accepted into the highly competitive NIAF (National Italian American Foundation) on Campus, an NIAF Italian American Leadership Council (IALC) Fellow program, which sponsors a trip to Washington DC. **Ashley Harmon**, a film studies minor, had her short film, "Lindsay in the Making," screened in the 100 Words Film Festival in Toronto in October 2018. And **Sam Rahlke**, one of our graduates in German just landed a full-time job with ACE Handels- & Entwicklungs GmbH near Munich, Germany, after doing a successful internship with the same company through the German American Exchange Program. This is why we do all we do, so that our students not only experience the best education we can offer, but that they also prepare themselves for interesting and challenging careers.

We hope you had a safe and enjoyable winter holiday and are glad to see everyone renewed and refreshed now that you have returned.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Italian Club hosts Consul General of Italy

On September 19 of 2018, the Italian Club of UNC Charlotte hosted the Consul General of Italy, the Honorable Pier Forlano, on his visit to UNC Charlotte. Over 80 students, faculty, and staff from diverse departments across campus were in attendance; this includes the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the Belk College of Business, and the William States Lee College of Engineering. Board members of the Casa della Cultura Italiana (a local nonprofit) and the Honorary Consul of Italy were also present. The Honorable Pier Forlano was able to speak about the Italian language and his efforts to promulgate



Italian culture in the United States. He also spoke on the importance of learning and the relationships that were in place to promote the growth of Italian programs in American universities. On campus, the Italian Club exists to enrich the student body of UNC Charlotte by promoting Italian culture and language the club hosted the Honorable Pier Forlano to raise student awareness about the different opportunities that can be accessed by studying the Italian language and culture, and to offer an opportunity for students to network. The event was hosted by the Italian Club of UNC Charlotte, with support from Dr. Daniela Dal Pra and board members of the Casa della Cultura Italiana.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (Continued)



German Excursion to Texas

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In late October of 2018, ten excited UNC Charlotte German majors, accompanied by Dr. Susanne Gomoluch and Dr. Kai Werbeck, traveled to Austin, Texas. The trip was fully funded through the Frank Johnson Scholarship Program. The students learned about Texas German, the language that has been spoken by German settlers in the region for over a hundred years, but which is sadly, about to disappear. From the funky hostel in the heart of Downtown Austin, the group walked to the nearby UT campus. There, Dr. Hans Boas (the chair of the university's prestigious German Department and a foremost expert on the topic) led a two-hour long discussion about the fascinating history and current state of Texas German. Over the next two days, the excursion included visits to both Fredericksburg and New Braunfels, two midsize cities outside of Austin with a rich German heritage. In Fredericksburg, the students explored the various buildings that still speak of the German legacy—from churches to bakeries, and of course, Biergarten—and they visited the impressive Pioneer Museum with its original half-timber houses and other remainders of the past. In New Braunfels, the group met with Jan Kingsbury, a local historian who had prepared a highly informative and super fun scavenger hunt! Amidst the colorful swirl of Día de los Muertos, Downtown New Braunfels told its own diverse and multi-cultural story through murals, inscriptions, and historical markers. After three days of satisfied academic curiosity, timely insights on the history of immigration to the US, and excellent Tex-Mex cuisine, the excursion ended early on Sunday morning, when the group returned from Tejas. Legend has it that many a student took a loooooong nap upon their return to Charlotte. But all agreed that the trip had been worth it.

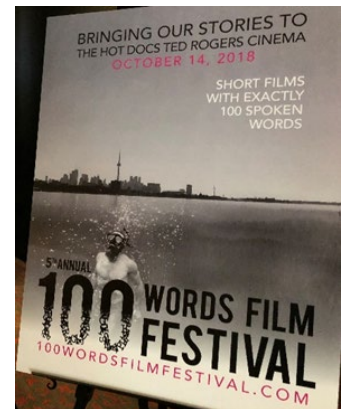
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (Continued)

Ashley Harmon Movie



Ashley Harmon had her short film, "Lindsay in the Making," screened in the 100 Words Film Festival in Toronto this month. This was the fifth year of the festival which showcases films made with only 100 words. Jordan Snyder, one of the festival organizers, shared the following about her participation:

"The 100 Words Film Festival just took place this past Sunday in Toronto, and not only was Ashley able to attend, but she was called on stage and the audience LOVED her film, 'Lindsay in the Making.' It was an absolute pleasure working with her, so thank you for recommending her! She truly went beyond our expectations with her ability to communicate and organize. It's safe to say this is HER film through and through."



Daimler Plant Tour

The German business student trip to Daimler Trucks was an incredible experience for all. Professor Angela Jakeway organized this visit and thus gave our students the opportunity to see first-hand what it means to run and work for a global company, and yet still feel like working within a family. Daimler's unique systems enable everyone to learn and help all other co-workers. Another part we all really enjoyed was hearing about the parent business in Germany. Working with people from all over the world is something the today's generation will most likely be doing to a greater extent than before, and everyone will be required to work with an open mind. Professor Angela Jakeway added, "Visiting the plant was an experience my students and I are thankful for!"



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (Continued)

UNC Charlotte Spanish Class meets Mayor Vi Lyles

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Students from Spanish 3409 Service Learning in the Hispanic Community, had the opportunity to meet with the Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent Clayton Wilcox on September 10, at the City Council meeting. They also attended a September 11 Board of Education meeting. In this class, students are required to attend a meeting for both the Board of Education and for City Council. Before they work in community service, they need to know who is serving the community and how they are impacting the Latino community. The goal is for the students to develop a deep understanding of why they would like to be a part of the impact.



Announcement of Samuel Nelson Read Scholarship

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Set up in August of 2018 by his parents, the Samuel Nelson Read Scholarship will help one student pursue a dream of going to Japan, and it will also promote the quality of their global lives. To be considered eligible for the scholarship, a student must be planning to study abroad in Japan. Samuel Read passed away just before he could depart for his job in Japan. After completing his study abroad program in Japan, his next dream was to work there.



Samuel's parents donated a framed picture of Samuel, which is now displayed on the fourth floor of the College of Education building. There was a ceremony held for the unveiling of the frame, and it serves to commemorate Samuel and his scholarship. The event was held at 4:00pm on November 9, 2018. Dr. Fumie Kato of the Japanese Studies Program is in charge of this project. The establishment of the scholarship can be celebrated not only by Japanese faculty members, but also department-wide faculty.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

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Furthering Global Education through Study Abroad, Cultural Events, and Fundraising

On October 16 from 3:30-5:00 pm, the Global Perspective Series (GPS) was hosted in collaboration with the UNC Charlotte Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars Mu Chapter, and the Office of International Programs. Dr. Ana-Isabel Aliaga-Buchenau gave a presentation titled, "Furthering Global Education through Study Abroad, Cultural Events, and Fundraising." Dr. Ana-Isabel Aliaga-Buchenau was granted the International Education Faculty Award from the OIP in 2018. We are proud to say that she gave a presentation as a recipient of the Award!



Professor Basma Botros

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Born and raised in Cairo, Egypt, Instructor Basma Botros moved to Charlotte in 2005. She obtained a Master's in Communication Studies from Eastern Illinois University in 2008.

Instructor Basma Botros holds a Bachelor of Science in Media Production, specializing in Radio & TV Broadcasting, obtained in June of 2006 from the International Academy for Media and Engineering Sciences in Cairo, Egypt. Instructor Basma Botros is also interested in teaching about the Arabic language, Arab culture, Society, Gender, and sexuality in the Arab World, and the effects of mass media.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS (Continued)

An Interview with Dr. Christopher Mellinger



Q: What is the Communiversity at Camino? And how does it fit in with what's already being done at Camino?

A: The Communiversity is a partnership between the Camino Community Center and UNC Charlotte that aims to provide a range of services to the Latinx immigrant community in the Charlotte area. Dr. Mark DeHaven originally started this program as part of the ARCHES program in an effort to reduce health disparities in the immigrant community surrounding UNC Charlotte. Since then, the program has grown with the overarching goal of strengthening the relationships that already exist between the university and Camino and finding ways to connect campus and community in mutually beneficial ways.

Q: How are you involved with this project? And what led you to become a part of it?

A: Last year, I was named the co-director of the Communiversity along with Dr. Roger Suclupe from the School of Social Work in the College of Health and Human Services. I am excited to be in this role since it brings together my interests of community engagement, cross-cultural and linguistic mediation, and public health.

Q: Are there any similar services for the Latinx community in Charlotte? How does this program stand out?

A: There are a number of organizations that do incredible work for the Latinx community in the Charlotte area. What makes the Communiversity unique is that it helps the university provide resources, expertise, and services to the Latinx community and also serves as a point of contact for the community to engage with campus. For instance, there are now classes that integrate experiences at Camino into their syllabi so that they can meet at Camino, teach and learn from community members, and share their experiences.

Q: We have already seen courses being created here at UNC Charlotte that have required students to take part in activities being done at Camino (SPAN 3409, for example). Do you plan on doing something similar in any future courses of yours?

A: I think that there are definitely opportunities for classes in the department to be involved with Camino! Service learning courses and internship type courses are an obvious first step, but the community interpreting course that I teach might also be a natural pairing. With a bit of creativity, I think that a range of courses could participate. I always enjoy talking with people about ideas and trying to make it happen.

Q: What are some personal and general outcomes that you wish to see with this project?

A: The Communiversity is relatively new, but I think it has great potential to grow. The program lines up with some civic engagement initiatives on campus, and I would like to see the partnership engage colleagues and students from all areas of campus life. We are already seeing this type of involvement from colleagues in education, dance, nursing, social work, to name just a few, and I would like to see even more people get involved. There is an incredible amount of expertise and talent on campus, and Communiversity is a great way to share it with the surrounding community.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS (Continued)

Allison Stedman Speaks at Sorbonne University



The Louis Liard Amphitheatre at the Sorbonne, where the colloquium took place.

On October 13 of 2018, Dr. Allison Stedman (Associate Professor of French) gave an invited lecture at the Sorbonne University in Paris to a group of French scholars and poetry experts on how late seventeenth-century French salon women used poetry as a tool of political subversion. Dr. Allison Stedman's talk focused on how poems written in praise of King Louis XIV can be interpreted to convey the opposite message about the monarch's political practices when they are inserted into novels, epistolary correspondences or other "mixed works," and are read in a linear fashion as opposed to being analyzed in isolation.

Dr. Allison Stedman was invited to speak on the final day of the colloquium due to her expertise as a historian of seventeenth-century French hybrid fiction, a literary strategy in which poems, letters, short stories, plays and other genres often appeared together within the same work, with the goal of bringing pleasure to their readers and creating literary communities that did not conform to traditional social categories. Hybrid fiction was the subject of Dr. Allison Stedman's 2013 award-winning monograph *Rococo Fiction in France (1600-1715)*. This is the second time that she has been invited to the Sorbonne to speak about material related to her book.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Allison Braden

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Allison Braden is a Spanish master's degree student in the translation concentration; she will be graduating this Fall. She wrote a research paper during Spring of 2018 for her Linguistics for Translators class. She submitted her paper to the graduate student journal *Spanish and Portuguese Review*, and the journal accepted it for publication. The title of her paper is "A Linguistic Analysis of *Kramp*: María José Ferrada's Child Narrator in Translation."

Jessica Williams-Wilborn

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Jessica Williams-Wilborn is a Spanish master's degree student in the translation concentration. She was selected to participate in the English Language Assistant Program sponsored by the Ministry of Education of Spain; the program is known to be quite competitive. Jessica Williams-Wilborn is participating for the 2018-2019 school year. She is currently in Huelva, Spain, working as an English language assistant at a public school, while taking two online graduate courses at UNC Charlotte.

Michael Brooks

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Michael Brooks graduated in Spring 2018. She received her bachelor's degree and her Graduate Certificate in Translating (French concentration). She is the first student in the French concentration to receive the Graduate Certificate in Translating. This academic year of 2018-2019, she is a graduate student at the Université de Limoges, where she's working on her master's degree. Her master's degree Thesis will focus on the role of translation of political and religious documents in the international relations of the United States, with a concentration on the relationships with France and Canada. She is also working as a freelance translator for Day Translations, Incorporated.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

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Sidrah Maroti

Student Sidrah Maroti is part of the Arabic program at UNC Charlotte. Her major is Political Science and International Studies, and she was also the head of the Arabic Film Club. Sidrah Maroti has a passion for foreign cultures, especially the Arab world. She works with the Fruitful Friends program through Refugee Support Services; this program pairs refugee families from all over the world with an American friend in order to help them acclimate to American culture. Sidrah Maroti is paired with a Syrian family, which serves as an excellent exchange of language and culture. She has the opportunity to practice her Arabic and experience Syrian cuisine and customs, while also providing support to a community that faces a large amount of discrimination here in North Carolina.

Currently, she is carrying out an exchange program through ISEP (International Student Exchange Program), where she will continue her studies of political science and international studies, as well as her Arabic minor. She will be at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, for the academic year. The courses are taught in English, so she has the chance to take both language classes and classes pertaining to her majors. Sidrah Maroti's program started on August 27, 2018 and ends sometime in May 2019.



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