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Photo Credit: Andrea Paolo Dal Pra

College Celebration Honors Faculty

At the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences' Excellence in Teaching Awards in April, Daniela Dal Pra, Ph.D., was promoted to Teaching Professor and Paloma Fernandez Sanchez, Ph.D., was one of three finalists for the "Outstanding Teaching by a Full-Time Lecturer" Award.

Three key components of Sanchez's teaching philosophy include connecting the course's student learning objectives with her student's own professional goals, emphasizing the importance of diversity and inclusion through her lectures and classroom activities, and establishing a collaborative and active learning environment.

Dal Pra's selection as a Teaching Professor recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in teaching and fundamental contributions to the university's educational mission.

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A Letter from the Chair (Spring 2019)

Despite the terrible tragedy of April 30, the Department of Languages and Culture Studies has come together to grieve and remember the victims, many of whom were our students, attending our classes. It is hard to review the highlights and successes of the spring semester with such a somber backdrop. It is important for us to remember the accomplishments of Spring 2019, and to acknowledge and recognize the good work we have done. This view prevents us from falling victim to unproductive guilt and musings over what could have been done to prevent the violence that has forever marked our campus. So, let me quickly review where we are in terms of our accomplished faculty, wonderful students, and growing programs.

First and foremost, in terms of the Provost's graduation metrics, we stood out nationally: *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported in January, in terms of foreign language degrees awarded, we were second nationally in German, fourth in Japanese, and 21st in Spanish. Our next challenge is to grow French and we have already begun. At last count, there were 56 French majors, more than ever. We have now turned our attention to French, and we expect great things. Our other programs also are thriving. The minor in Arabic was approved with some 20 students signed up already. For the first time, Italian participated in the Summer Program in Rome. The first study abroad spring break program was successfully completed in Chinese, and students are going to China this summer. Japanese awarded 10 Certificates in the new Translation Program. New online courses have been certified in Spanish by Quality Matters; and our new Graduate Certificate in Translation and Interpreting was approved by SACS, our accrediting body. And lastly, Film Studies is poised to request a major.

In terms of initiatives that involve the entire department: the new program in Honors Across the Languages graduated the first two Honors students; we sponsored another highly successful International Film Festival; Poetry Slam was well-attended, as was the extraordinary Witness in Residence Program. Our faculty have continued to be awarded prizes and honors; give keynote addresses as invited lectures; successfully apply for grants; and publish like crazy. Our students have won scholarships, prizes, and contests; been accepted into prestigious programs and honor societies; participated in internships; and landed their dream jobs. The rest of this issue will provide more details on some of these highlights. There is just not enough space to give adequate mention to everyone. Please know how very proud I am of all of the faculty, staff, and students. It is an honor to be the department chair. We are hard working, caring individuals who create a welcoming department for work and study. I am hoping everyone has a wonderful, productive, and peaceful summer to return reinvigorated for the challenges of another academic year. I also hope the summer is productive for all our alumni and department friends, and we look forward to staying connected. – Ann Gonzalez, Chair

Photo Credit: Bobby Hobgood, Ed.D.

STUDENT NEWS

Duke Japanese Speech Contest

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This year, we sent two students, Vanessa Lee (level 3) and Stephanie Lam (level 2) to the 32nd Duke Speech Contest. Vanessa Lee was awarded the First Place Prize, and Stephanie Lam received the Third Place Prize, for their respective levels.

Lee, a senior in psychology and Japanese, as well as in the Certificate in Translating for Japanese – English program, expects to graduate in May 2019. Lee studied abroad at Nanzan University through ISEP (International Student Exchange Program) in Fall 2018. Lee has participated in the Duke Speech Contest three years in row, receiving third place at Level 1, first place at Level 2, and first place this year, at Level 3., “I treat this as an opportunity for me to get to know the language better,” she said, sharing her outlook on the competition.

Lam is a junior in computer science and Japanese, as well as in the Certificate in Translating for Japanese – English program. She plans to study abroad in Summer 2019 at J.F. Oberlin University in Japan.

Dr. Fumie Kato and Professor Chikako Mori, from the Japanese Studies Program, cheered Lee and Lam on at the speech contest. Professor Kazue Shamburg, currently Lam’s language class professor, assisted Lam through this process, and commented that Lam worked extremely hard to prepare herself for this opportunity. As a result, her Japanese proficiency has improved dramatically. Lam noted, “Participating at the speech contest at Duke gave me more confidence to participate in these sorts of events in the future, and also gave me newfound energy to study more.”



Vanessa Lee (left), Stephanie Lam (right.) Photo credit: Fumie Kato, Ph.D.

Maria Garcia Receives International Education Award

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Garcia, who is majoring in International Studies, French and German, studied abroad in Lyon, France, and Berlin, Germany. During her time in Germany, she served as a student blogger and Snapchatter for the American Institute for Foreign Study Program and shared her experiences to encourage others to study abroad. Additionally, she served as an overseas ambassador for Diversity Abroad; she wrote articles and represented the organization on social media as an advocate for intercultural exchange.

Garcia also served as a peer advisor for the Office of Education Abroad and as a conversation partner for the English Language Training Institute. As an undergraduate research assistant, she worked in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration on various projects.



As a Charlotte Community Scholar, Garcia works with an immigration attorney in Charlotte to meet various local immigration needs. Her native languages are English and Spanish. In addition, she has studied French, German and Portuguese. As the 2019 Student International Education Award recipient, Garcia received a plaque and a \$500 stipend, presented by a student award review committee member Oldain Claxton, a graduate student and member of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society.

Garcia hopes to become a multilingual interpreter/translator, which would leave her with a wide variety of options in terms of employment, including government agencies, International NGOs, and private contractors. Garcia wrote her senior thesis in international studies about the way foreign language acquisition leads to better communication and a greater degree of empathy. In what free time she has, she likes to read, play and watch sports (tennis, soccer, volleyball), and attend concerts.

Garcia learns about cultures as she studies abroad. Photo credits: Europamundo tour guide (top photo) and Sane Agustin.

CATI Conference: Languages and Culture Studies Team Recruits New Students

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*Laura Richiez Combas, back left
Delfina Erochenko, back right
Monica Rodriguez, Ph.D., front
left Yennica Palmer, front right*

Photo Credit: Hitomi Olson

Faculty member Monica Rodriguez, Ph.D., and Graduate Assistants Laura Richiez Combas, Delfina Erochenko and Yennica Palmer attended a conference called CATI: Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters. The 31st annual conference, held in March, in Spartanburg, S.C., serves to create a discussion about best-practices and professionalism in the fields of interpreting and translating. The graduate students from Rodriguez's course "TRAN 6480: Graduate Translation Internship" attended the conference as part of a module on career development & professionalism in translation and interpreting professions. The course is offered online, and students complete 120 hours in providing on-site translation and interpreting services for a wide range of organizations.

Students Laura Price and Hitomi Olson also attended the conference as part of the course. This visit was a great contribution to UNC Charlotte's student recruitment efforts.

Testimonials:

"The CATI conference was an excellent experience for me as a student. It was great to meet other translators and to attend seminars that have helped me grow professionally. The conference is a great experience for any language professional with a commitment to lifelong learning." - Delfina Erochenko

"As a translation student, the CATI conference was an excellent opportunity to learn more about all the different field concentrations available in the workforce and the many continuing education resources available." - Yennica Palmer

"The CATI Conference was a wonderful experience. It was a joy to meet and observe so many people who are passionate about language, and I truly enjoyed learning from them. Attending conferences and seminars is truly the best way to continue learning throughout our careers, I highly recommend for other language professionals to attend this conference in the future." - Laura Richiez Combas



Students attend the conference. Photo credit: Monica Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Latino YES Program

Two students from UNC Charlotte volunteered at the Latino YES program on April 4, at Red Ventures Auditorium in Fort Mill, S.C. The event was organized by Rosanna Saladin-Subero, Ph.D., the assistant director of Community Partnerships. The audience members were Latino high school students, grades 10-12. The turnout was impressive, with almost 400 students and 50 chaperones and volunteers. Lunch was provided after the event for vendors and volunteers.



Brianna Cullins, Bethany Myers, Acneer Avila (left to right.) Cullins and Avila are UNC Charlotte students.

Student Brianna Cullins is completing her “Span 4410 Spanish Professional internship” at the Camino Community Center. She worked on a literacy program there and was curious about how Latino youth can be empowered in high school to become active citizens in our community.

Student Acneer Avila is currently taking “Spanish 3409 Service Learning in the Latino Community” and his focus has been on education. He wants to learn more about what Latino educators are doing to help and empower Latino Youth.

Professor Susana Cisneros, who teaches both students, commented, “Serving the community is my passion and integrating people from different areas of the community is something that I enjoy doing. I am aware that many Latino students do not have teachers that look like them. Often, that is why they believe it is important for them to go into teaching.”

Visualization Lab: SPAN 3209

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In April, Hugo Pascual Bordón, Ph.D., took the SPAN 3209 Spanish Civilization and Culture class to a special session at the Visualization Lab of the J. Murrey Atkins Library at UNC Charlotte. Librarians Beth Caruso and Natalie Ornat assisted Hugo Pascual Bordón, Ph.D., to coordinate the class. The group was divided into three different stations: data visualization, video game, and 360° videos.

Data visualization is part of the project Pantheon, developed at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Students searched for information about famous people from different countries and eras. In the database, students found information from Spain, (previously learned in the class), and compared this information to that of other familiar countries, such as the United States and Latin American countries.

Another resource students explored was a **video game**, set in the early colonial period, in the Caribbean when the Spanish troops arrived. Students selected the avatars and the characters. They had to explore the area based on a sequence of choices offered. Since the game might take hours to complete, students who wished to continue, could go to the gaming lab in the library. The third station was the **360° videos**. Students experienced a virtual tour of Barcelona, specifically of the basilica of La Sagrada Familia. The tour was achieved by attaching smart phones to Google cardboard glasses to play a video on the YouTube application. The trip to the Visualization Lab created a successful experience on connecting digital components to the language and culture classroom.



Students explore visualization tools. Photo Credit: Hugo Pascual Bordón, Ph.D.

German Language and Culture Foundation (GLCF) Scholarship Award Ceremony

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Every year, for the past ten years, students from UNC Charlotte have received unique scholarships, allowing them to travel to Germany for a study abroad trip. The experience is often transformative in more ways than one. These opportunities would not be possible without the generous ongoing donations of Kurt Waldthausen. This year, the awards were received by: Richard Boatwright, Johnathan Cuartas, Samantha Darwin, Sean Elmore, Eric Kocsis, Niyathis Sulkunte, Jackson Garner, Sha'Reace Gray, David Hawkins, Alexandra

Hemsley, Haley Kaufmann, Megan Lynch, Raven Pfeiffer, Karen Roman, Janessa Schwallie, Eric Stetter, DeVante Thomas-Pittman, Joseph Russoli and Nick Hewitt. Adriana Figueroa was the recipient of the Regina Waldthausen Scholarship in honor of Mrs. Waldthausen, who recently passed away. Each recipient had a chance to personally thank Mr. Waldthausen and shake his hand.

The German Language Program at UNC Charlotte is now ranked number second in the nation, in terms of degrees awarded, and number one in North Carolina. Programs like this open doors for German students to fulfill their full potential in the world.



Students receive scholarships (here and above image.) Photo credit: Julia Geaney-Moore

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Marie-Célie Agnant

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Author Marie-Célie Agnant, a Haitian-Quebécois writer of prose and poetry, visited UNC Charlotte and spoke about her experiences under the Duvalier regime in Haiti, and as an immigrant to Québec, Canada. Her lecture, “Writing from the Silence,” included readings of extracts from some of the author’s prose and poetry, as well as a reflection on the various legacies. The legacies intervene in her writing process; one of those is “Silence.”

The author stated, “It is out of that silence, from the silence and against that silence that I write, and from that place where silence becomes violence. By so doing I also try to question the ways of representation of the political, historical and literary discourse, and the boundaries dictated by fiction.”



Marie-Célie Agnant with Khara Moïse



Marie-Célie Agnant with Devin Hilferty
Photo credit: Mary LaMarca, Ph.D.

Her works have received many accolades. Most notably, Agnant was a finalist for ‘La Dot de Sara,’ the 1995 Desjardins literary prize; and ‘Le Silence comme le sang,’ the 1997 Governor General's Award. Her poetry and prose is regularly published in Haiti, Canada and France and has been translated into English, Italian, Spanish, Korean and Dutch. The lecture took place in January 2019, sponsored by the French Club at UNC Charlotte, with support from the Alliance Française of Charlotte; and the Department of English and the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies at UNC Charlotte.

Ping Peng

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The Confucius Institute offered a free professional development workshop titled “Toolbox for Mandarin Immersion Classroom Instructors” in February at East Voyager Academy of Charlotte. The workshop was live-streamed through WebEx Training, and was open to all in-service and pre-service Mandarin immersion educators.

The speaker was Ping Peng, a doctoral student in Second Language Education, College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Peng is a veteran Mandarin teacher with 12 years experience teaching at different grade levels of various immersion programs, including four years as Chinese Immersion Department Chair at Minnetonka Public Schools in Minnesota. In addition to her Elementary Education license, Peng also holds a Certificate in Dual Language and Immersion. She dedicates herself to Chinese immersion teaching and devotes most of her professional time to identifying, designing, implementing effective, practical teaching methodologies and strategies.

Randy Kluver

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On February 1, Randy Kluver Ph.D., dean of the School of Global Studies and Partnerships at Oklahoma State University delivered a talk entitled, “Geopolitical Narratives and U.S. - China Relations.” This was an event of the China Studies Series Lecture, unveiled in the Spring. The series invites nationally and internationally renowned speakers to share their expertise on various disciplines related to scholarly work on China. Drawing upon decades of research on how the two nations of China and the U.S. regard each other, especially as portrayed in media, his talk examined the evolution of the narratives of one another and the implications for U.S./China relations. In particular, the talk addressed how the recent emergence of the “Chinese Dream” discourse and “New Model of Major Power Relations” has sought to develop an overall geopolitical framework. This talk was not only intended to provide an ideological framework for future Chinese development, but also to mark out China’s place in the world and how it interacts with the United States.

Emily Anderson

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The Wartime Incarceration of Japanese Americans: Lessons and Legacies

In 1942, nearly 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry (of whom two-thirds were US citizens) were forcibly removed from their homes and communities along the West Coast, and held behind barbed wire in hastily constructed incarceration camps in the US interior.

In April, in the University Cone Center, 43 students attended a presentation to learn more about this incarceration. Emily Anderson, Ph.D., project curator at the Japanese American National Museum, presented the lessons and legacies from this painful time in American history. Anderson was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. She received her Ph.D. in Japanese History from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has taught at UCLA, Washington State University and the University of Auckland in New Zealand. This event was co-sponsored by the UNC Charlotte Department of History.



Emily Anderson shares knowledge with students, faculty, staff. Photo credits: Yukiko Yokono

FACULTY NEWS

Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards

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Dean Gutierrez, Ph.D. with Dal Pra, Ph.D. Photo credit: Andrea Paolo Dal Pra



Dal Pra, Ph.D. with Fernandez Sanchez, Ph.D. (middle) and Chair Ann Gonzalez, Ph.D.

In April, in the Halton Reading Room of J. Murrey Atkins Library several of our faculty were recognized for excellence in teaching. Daniel Cunico Dal Pra, Ph.D., was recognized for her promotion to Teaching Professor. Paloma Fernandez Sanchez, Ph.D., was nominated and continued to become a finalist for “Outstanding Teaching by a Full-Time Lecturer.” Ann Gonzalez, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Languages and Culture Studies, went to support the faculty as well as Nancy Gutierrez, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

QM Recognition Ceremony: Poster Presentation

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The Annual Quality Matters Recognition Ceremony and Poster Presentation took place in April in the Kennedy Building. Quality Matters is a peer review process which helps to certify the quality of courses that are taught either partially or fully online.

The goals of the QM program are to maintain continuous improvement and help recognize those who maintain excellent standards in design and development of online and hybrid courses. The event celebrated the success of UNC Charlotte faculty members who have received official Quality Matters Course Certification. The leadership and service of our Quality Matters associate faculty fellows was also recognized. After the recognition, a poster presentation session was held to showcase course design best practices; examples of high-quality online courses, that are developed according to QM Standards; as well as research on online teaching practices.



Jeff Killman, Ph.D., receives course certifications (Top photo, Killman is on the right. Bottom photo, Killman is in the middle.

Jeff Killman, Ph.D., received the Official QM Course Certification for his TRAN 6472 and TRAN 4442 courses.

Faculty fellows from our department who were recognized were Sandra Watts, Ph.D., Jeff Killman, Ph.D., and Bobby Hobgood, Ph.D..



Bobby Hobgood, Ed.D., is honored. (Right.) Photo credit: Enoch Park

Poster presenters from the department were: Susanne Gomoluch, Ph.D., Bobby Hobgood, Ed.D., and Jeff Killman, Ph.D.

Languages and Culture Studies Welcomes David Boyd, Ph.D.

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The Department of Languages and Culture Studies welcomed David Boyd, Ph.D., in Fall 2018, as a new full-time assistant professor of Japanese. We invited him to share a little about himself and his passion for translating.



*David Boyd joins the department.
Photo credit: Bobby Hobgood, Ed.D.*

"I work on Japanese-English literary translation. As a practicing translator, I'm usually drawn to the sort of work that gets labeled as 'untranslatable.' The more puzzling the text, the better," said Boyd.

Earlier this year, he finished working on *The Factory* (2010), a novella by Hiroko Oyamada. The translation is set to be published in October by New Directions. His next book-length project will be *The Hole* (2013), Oyamada's award-winning follow-up to *The Factory*. Later this summer, he plans to give a talk in Tokyo on the difficulties posed by both of these novellas, focusing primarily on the ways in which Oyamada uses the zero subject (or the omitted subject) in her work.

Together with Sam Bett, Boyd is currently translating several novels by Mieko Kawakami, who has been called one of Japan's 'best young novelists' (*Granta* magazine). Kawakami's work, which is partly written in Osaka dialect, presents its own set of distinct challenges, Boyd says. In future research, he hopes to write about handling dialect in translation, drawing on his own experiences with Kawakami's writing.

Boyd has recently translated a few children's books, as well. His translations of the fourth, fifth and sixth books in Kaya Doi's *Chirri and Chirra* series will be published within the next year by Enchanted Lion Books.

"I have had a great first year at UNC Charlotte. Few teachers are lucky enough to have students who are so passionate and hard-working. It's been an absolute pleasure working with them."

Languages and Culture Studies Remembers

On April 30, 2019 the UNC Charlotte community lost two bright students: Reed Parlier and Riley Howell. Reed was 19 years old and enjoyed volunteering. Riley was 21 years old and he put others' needs ahead of his own. Four other students were injured in the incident: Rami Alramadhan, Sean Dehart, Emily Houpt and Drew Pescaro. Some of our professors knew these students well, having taught them in class. In fact, Riley was completing a Spanish course in our department.

During the tragedy, many students and faculty took action to find safety and followed instructions from the University Police and Public Safety. Faculty members reached out to each other through e-mail and phone messages to ensure everyone was accounted for and safe. In the following days, months and years, we will continue to show each other that same sense of caring and community. We will continue to honor the memories of those who were lost.



For more information, please visit:
<https://ninernationremembers.uncc.edu/>



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