



## Youth4Health

### International Exchange

In early 2014, Yuliya Baldwin, lecturer in Russian, came across the US-Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program while browsing the US embassy website in Russia. The prestigious \$95,000 grant, available through the US Department of State, gives ten students from both Russia and US the opportunity to participate in a ten-day exchange.

After deciding to apply, Baldwin was tasked with creating her own unique interpretation of its broad initiative to foster

US and Russian peer-to-peer dialogue on a non-political topic. She first decided on a program rooted in the theme of health issues and promoting healthy living. Then, she designed an application process that would fulfill the grant's goal of encouraging innovative interaction among participants.

Once awarded the grant, dubbed Youth4Health, Baldwin asked students to organize themselves into teams of two or more and to participate in weekly challenges. Selection

was based largely on participation, and the more students regularly interacted, the more points they earned.

Participant Sean Flanders, a competitive Olympic weightlifter, said, "My participation consisted of posting training videos, showing different types of lifting, and showcasing photos of foods I eat regularly to stay healthy."

As part of the exchange, ten students from the Voronezh State Medical Academy (VSMA), the Russian sister university, visited North Carolina in March.

*"The grant showcases our department's ability to support cross-cultural exchanges and develop good global citizens."*  
— Sheri Spaine Long, LCS chair and grant PI

UNC Charlotte students will then visit Russia in May. While there, they will participate in a variety of health-themed activities organized by VSMA, including leading debates and discussion panels. Local high schools are even competing to see which school "wins" the honor of having University students visit them.

Baldwin hopes that by participating, students will learn diplomacy, "so they can see that most people lead normal lives," she said. "Not everyone is rich in the US and not everyone drinks vodka in Russia."

## What student participants say:

"Russian language and culture is so distinguished and challenging, and one worth learning about! Having direct contact with the language and culture will help to better acquaint myself and improve my language speaking abilities, which I hope I can use post-graduation in the federal law enforcement field."  
— Veronica Guillen

"I was exposed to Russian language and culture in my childhood as I grew up in Kyrgyz Republic, one of the 15 post-Soviet Union countries. I am looking forward most to spending quality time with my Russian counterparts of this project. It will be fascinating for me to compare and contrast our attitudes toward a healthy lifestyle."  
— Kabul Allakhunov

"Fourteen years living in America has made me half American and half Russian. I feel like I have two homes. My visit to Russia with the team will create a better understanding that Americans are friendlier than Russians think they are. Our presence in Russia will be able to act as a bridge between two cultures."  
— Tanya Miller



# Master of Arts in Spanish

Early Entry option for Spanish undergraduates brings new growth to master's program

The department's Master of Arts in Spanish program continues to grow in enrollment as it welcomes four early entry students this year. This marks an important stride for the program, as these undergraduates represent the inaugural group of pupils utilizing the UNC Charlotte Graduate School's Early Entry option for the master's in Spanish.

Anton Pujol, associate professor of Spanish and graduate director, hopes that by having faculty individually invite the department's most

## What is Early Entry?

- A student may be accepted at any time after completion of 90 semester hours of undergraduate work applicable to the appropriate degree.
- Admission must be recommended by the department and approved by the Graduate School.
- The undergraduate student must have at least a 3.2 overall GPA and 3.0 GPA in the department.
- The student will be dismissed from the program if he has not met the normal admission requirements of a 2.75 overall undergraduate GPA and a 3.0 junior-senior GPA at the end of his/her baccalaureate degree.

Information courtesy of The Graduate School at UNC Charlotte  
www.graduateschool.uncc.edu

exceptional undergraduates to apply for the Early Entry program, these students will choose to stay at UNC Charlotte for the master's degree over other institutions.

As a perk, Pujol said, once a student is accepted into Early Entry, he or she has the opportunity to "double dip" on two fronts. First, the student may count six credit hours, or two courses, of undergraduate course work toward his or her graduate coursework. Second, the student will still reap the benefit of paying less expensive undergraduate tuition while participating in the Early Entry program.

"It's great for our best and brightest students to know that we're truly making an effort to retain them," Pujol said.

## First Spanish graduate exchange student spends semester in program

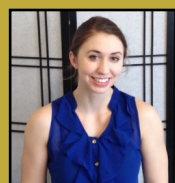
María Rubio Gragera's arrival on campus in Spring 2015 marks the official launch of the department's exchange with the University of Málaga (UMA) in Málaga, Spain. The idea for a partnership between the two institutions first surfaced when Sheri Long, department chair, visited the Spanish university and met Emilio Ortega Arjonilla, director of the department of translation and interpreting at UMA.

Rubio, a doctoral student at UMA, first learned of the exchange opportunity via Ortega, her thesis director. As the department's inaugural graduate exchange student, Rubio is spending one semester here at UNC Charlotte, taking two graduate courses in Spanish and tutoring undergraduate students in the department's Language Resource Center. She brings a wealth of experience to the program as she continues her doctoral research on the hybridization of medical and legal texts across English, French and Spanish.



Although she previously spent one year in Belgium studying abroad, this marks Rubio's first visit to the US. While she hasn't noted many differences among students in Spain versus those at UNC Charlotte, one interesting cultural difference lies in the idea of the campus. Here, Rubio says, the campus is like its own small city whereas in Málaga, a campus consists of a building or two integrated within the city itself.

## Get to know our Early Entry undergraduate scholars:

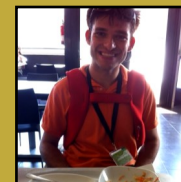


**Carlie Herron**, a student in the Applied Language track for both her bachelor's and master's degrees, learned of the program via Concepción Godev, associate professor of Spanish.

**Q: What do you see as a benefit of Early Entry?**

**A:** I never had the intention of continuing my education; the prospect of applying to a graduate program and earning a master's degree was intimidating to me. However, after working with several of the graduate faculty in some of my undergraduate courses, I realized this was an excellent opportunity to continue learning from the same knowledgeable and talented professors. Because four-year degrees are becoming quite common, I decided to take this extra step to improve my knowledge of Spanish and to help set myself apart in the job market.

**Myron McKenzie**, a student in the Applied Language track for both his bachelor's and master's degrees, learned of the program via Anton Pujol, associate professor of Spanish and graduate director.



**Q: What made you decide to seek Early Entry?**

**A:** I've never been fast at anything. Growing up with cerebral palsy, I was forced to stop and smell the roses. And so, on average, it takes me double or triple the time to do almost anything when compared to others. I rarely get an opportunity to save time. Hopefully, this program will allow me to get more bang for my buck in more than one way. I also think this program might give students who are undecided about graduate school a chance to test the waters a bit.



# The power of People

Ex-Stasi prisoner visits department in weeklong celebration of 25th anniversary of fall of Berlin Wall

When Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau, associate professor of German, first met Mario Röllig nearly five years ago, she was immediately struck by his message. Buchenau, who was visiting an ex-Stasi prison in Potsdam during a spring break trip to Germany, simultaneously interpreted as Röllig lectured to students. His story was so immensely powerful because he was, in fact, more than a guide. Having survived three months in Hohenschönhausen prison in 1987 after attempting to escape communist East Germany, Röllig delivered such an intensely personal message because it was his own.

Buchenau's initial meeting with Röllig proved to be the impetus whose culmination was two-fold: first, a German course that debuted in the Fall 2014

semester in which Buchenau married the themes of East Germany and Röllig's story; and second, a weeklong series of events in November 2014 to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with Röllig as the guest of honor. In addition to telling his powerful story to groups across the university, Davidson College, and Mecklenburg high schools, Röllig was at the center of the culminating event aptly titled "The Power of People." Here, close to 400 students, faculty, and area residents gathered to hear Röllig's story, watch documentaries, view exhibits made by area high school students, and craft their own "wall" to tear down.

"Mario tells a story that resonates in the US because it's one of overcoming adversity, finding identity, and dealing with trauma," said Buchenau. "Truthfully, I didn't even initially consider that his narrative would be so appealing to an American audience."

The department has already proposed and is working to invite Röllig back in Spring 2016 as a "historical witness in residence." In this capacity Röllig would work across various disciplines and lecture in various classes. Buchenau hopes to prepare her translation students in the Fall 2015 semester to be able to translate and interpret for Röllig in the following spring.



*"Mario coming here, it was not just about him talking about the Berlin Wall, it was about bringing two countries together. He provided insight that even I, as a German, didn't know."*

— Angela Jakeway, lecturer in German

*"The Röllig event was spectacular. I believe the out-of-sight, out-of-mind mentality is pervasive and it isn't until individuals experience oppression themselves that they find fault in the system."*

— Denise Jackson, German major

*"As a German major it meant a lot to me because it actually related to what I am learning. Talking to Mario, it was amazing to hear first-hand what my teachers discuss in our class and is a learning experience I will not forget."*

— Samantha Roberts, German major



**Röllig's visit** was a campus- and community-wide effort whose scope was far-reaching. Buchenau's leadership brought the weeklong spectacular to fruition, but she is quick to note that the collaborative efforts of many were what made Röllig's various presentations and receptions a standout success. These individuals and organizations included:

- South Mecklenburg, Providence, Forestview and Ashbrook High Schools
- Davidson College
- Deutsche Schule Charlotte
- The German Language and Culture Foundation
- Dale Halton
- Henry and Carol Pharr
- Twig Branch, chair, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Dean's Advisory Council
- Joshua Burford, UNC Charlotte Assistant Director for Sexual and Gender Diversity
- UNC Charlotte Office of International Programs

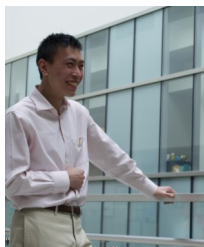
# International FILM Festival

An intradepartmental exercise in cultural collaboration celebrates a wildly successful third year of international films



"Film offers a wonderful opportunity for students to learn language, but perhaps even more importantly, it helps familiarize and engage them with other cultures. I regularly use film and film clips in my classes in order to reinforce cultural themes, spark discussion, and analyze choices made by the director. As a writer and researcher, I relish the opportunity to see and discuss films that run the gamut from comedy to drama and documentary, as well as those from diverse countries."

— Mary LaMarca, visiting professor of French



"A curated film program offers a shared experience for students and faculties, which helps foster a stronger sense of community and a robust environment for liberal arts education. Each film offers a unique perception of the world. Only in a dark cinema can we leave our own worlds and access the others' experiences of the world. I hope students will come out of the theater with heightened sensibilities on things that would otherwise be invisible."

—Shota Ogawa, visiting assistant professor of Japanese



"For our students this is a great opportunity to broaden their horizons. Many students have never seen a foreign language film or, if they have, they have been restricted to films screened in their respective foreign language classroom. Having taught a number of film classes in my career, I think that the visual aspect is extremely useful in the foreign language classroom since it adds an extra layer of representation that facilitates discussion and advances intercultural proficiency."

— Kai Werbeck, assistant professor of German



"Being an urban research institution, we are well-poised to host such a culturally diverse and globally relevant event offering this unique chance to learn about other societies through film. We can create more innovative course content, which promotes critical thinking, freedom of inquiry, and helps our students become global citizens. Ultimately, the cultural richness of film inspires creativity, collaboration and problem solving."

—Mónica Rodríguez, assistant professor of Spanish and Lorena Delgadillo, lecturer in Spanish

## GRANTS AWARDED TO DEPARTMENT FACULTY FOR FILM FESTIVAL

Faculty member(s)	Language division	Grant(s) awarded
1. Michèle Bissière and Mary LaMarca	French	Tournées; Alliance Française de Charlotte; Charlotte Film Society; Charlotte Jewish Film Festival
2. Daniela Dal Pra	Italian	Chancellor's Diversity Challenge
3. Luanfeng Huang	Chinese	Student Government Association (SGA) — Chinese Club
4. Alexandra Lemos Zagonel and Valéria Schmid Queiroz	Portuguese	SGA — Portuguese Club
5. Shota Ogawa	Japanese	AAS Northeast Asia Council; Chancellor's Diversity Challenge; Charlotte Film Society
6. Lorena Delgadillo and Mónica Rodríguez	Spanish	Pragda Spanish Film Club; Chancellor's Diversity Challenge; Office of International Programs
7. Yekaterina Skorodinskaya	Russian	Kultboro Bazelevs Distribution
8. Kai Werbeck	German	SGA — German Club



# Reflecting on the highlight reel

Festival organizer and founder Michèle Bissière, associate professor of French, reflects on the festival's impact on the university at large

As the department celebrates its third annual International Film Festival with ever-growing film screenings and student and faculty participation, event coordinator and festival founder Michèle Bissière, associate professor of French, is already thinking ahead. She contemplates funding, films, and guest speakers for next year's festival while her current one, a month-long endeavor that culminates more than a year's worth of planning, enjoys robust success.

What began as an individual effort in 1994 in Bissière's French classes and several French film festivals was reincarnated in 2013 as a department-wide celebration. This year's festival, the biggest to date, enjoyed funding thanks to 16 grants and gifts that allowed the showing of 20 contemporary films from 16 differ-

ent countries including China, France, Germany, Israel, Nicaragua, and Russia.

Bissière is quick to point out that she is able to encourage collaboration by requesting that individual faculty be responsible for finding a film, securing funding and rights to show it, and arranging speakers to introduce and lead discussion. Faculty event organizers also work closely with student

language organizations to reserve rooms on campus for screenings.

Future plans to expand the festival's scope, says Bissière, include basing the festival around a unified theme, applying for more grants to allow for the appearance of more film directors and guest speakers, and one day, organizing a conference around the festival.

**"This festival is a great team effort, and it provides an opportunity to discuss world cultures."**

— Michèle Bissière



Films shown at the 2015 Festival included:

*The Tale of Iya / Iya Monogatari: Okunohito* (Japan)

Tsuta Tetsuichiro's film tells the story of Haruna and her grandfather, who hunt and grow their own food in their rural town of Tokushima.

*Arrugas / Wrinkles* (Spain)

Based on Paco Roca's award-winning graphic novel and directed by Ignacio Ferreras, *Wrinkles* utilizes hand-drawn animation.

*L'Image manquante / The Missing Picture* (France, Cambodia)

Rithy Panh uses carved and painted figures to represent his family, who fled Phnom Penh when the Khmer Rouge took Cambodia's capital city.

*A Coffee in Berlin* (Germany)

Jan Ole Gerster's wry and vibrant feature debut, originally titled *Oh Boy*, is a slacker dramedy love letter to Berlin and the Generation Y experience.

归途列车 / *Last Train Home* (China)

Lixin Fan tells the story of China's yearly mass exodus when 130 million migrant workers journey to their home villages for the New Year.



→ **Tsuta Tetsuichiro**, director, writer, and editor of *The Tale of Iya / Iya Monogatari: Okunohito*, introduced his film and led a post-viewing discussion. His visit from Japan was made possible in part by funds provided by the **Charlotte Film Society**.

→ **UNC Charlotte Center City** campus hosted 7 films, giving university and area high school students as well as community members easier access to the festival uptown.

→ **The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival** arranged to finance a film being shown at their current 2015 festival to also be shown at the UNC Charlotte festival.

→ Films were introduced not only by faculty members from the Department of Languages and Culture Studies but also from the departments of: **History; Communication Studies; Computer Science; Global, International & Area Studies; and Film Studies.**

## GLOBAL REACH

The reach of the International Film Festival extended far beyond the Department of Languages and Culture Studies.



# Chinese

## at UNC Charlotte

New minor gains approval as interest in Chinese program grows

The department announced the approval of the Chinese minor in October 2014 for implementation in Fall 2015. The program, originally developed and proposed in 2011 by Robert Reimer, former department chair and professor of German, has found its place in the department due to the efforts of many.

"I believe our students' hard work and devotion deserves a minor," said Luanfeng Huang, current Chinese coordinator and lecturer in Chinese. "Our students are our biggest asset."

*Chinese is a challenging language to learn, but with more than one billion people speaking it worldwide, I believe that it is well worth it.*

—Taylor Tillison, Chinese minor

The new minor will both encourage current students to continue pursuing the language while also offering new students greater incentive to begin a program of study in Chinese. To address the potential challenges of advertising and recruiting, the Chinese division has already begun increasing its campus visibility this semester through its own Chinese New Year celebration, the department's International Film Festival, and the University's EXPLORE Open House events.

Huang recognizes that the most success-

ful advertisement will occur through word of mouth, and she was pleased to see the excitement of current Chinese students when she gave them news of the program's approval. Two students, Ling Guo and Taylor Tillison, have already declared the minor.

"I took Chinese during freshman year on a whim and ended up falling in love with the language. Ever since, I've been waiting for the university to offer a minor and I'm so happy they finally did," said Tillison. "As an International Studies major, one of my goals is to work for an international company. I hope learning Chinese will help boost the appeal of my professional resume."



### Welcome Liu Wei, visiting scholar

This semester LCS welcomes Liu Wei as its visiting scholar in Chinese.

Wei, a certified English to Chinese business interpreter and faculty member at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law in Wuhan, China, was first drawn to the university because of its offering of both undergraduate and graduate translation degrees.

Wei's research interests lie in contrastive English vs. Chinese studies as well as the translation and dissemination of Chinese literature in English-speaking countries. He recently participated in a study of the dissemination of contemporary Chinese literature in the US and co-translated two books whose publication is forthcoming in China.

Although he has found it a challenge to obtain authentic Chinese teaching materials like calligraphy brushes and ink to use in class, Wei has enjoyed immersing himself in American culture during his exchange.

### [ 5 minutes with: Tianran Savaiinaea ]



Tianran Savaiinaea

Savaiinaea, visiting lecturer of Chinese, will become the Chinese program coordinator in Fall 2015.

#### What do you see as your greatest challenge as Coordinator?

The most challenging part will be promoting and developing the program given our limited number of Chinese-learning students. However, I have already received offers from many of my colleagues, and I am sure I will have all the help I need. With more and more cooperation between China and the US in business and politics, there is definitely a great potential market for Chinese-speaking experts.

#### What is the greatest reward of teaching here?

To me, the biggest reward is always seeing how much progress my students make in a very short amount of time, and hearing them say that Chinese class is what they are most looking forward to every day.

# Fulbright Teaching Assistant

Brazil's Valéria Schmid Queiroz is UNC Charlotte's first Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA)

The department welcomed Schmid during academic year 2014-2015. Due to the desire to support Latin American Studies and Brazilian Portuguese instruction, Sheri Long, department chair, wrote two grants, submitting one to the Fulbright Commission and another to the UNC Charlotte Chancellor's Diversity Challenge. Nancy Gutierrez, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Joël Gallegos, assistant provost of the Office of International Programs, supplied additional funding.

## [ University-wide support ]

*"Valéria not only services the Portuguese program but also the Liberal Studies program more generally--and we supported her in helping her present her work at the SECOLAS conference in Charleston, SC in March."*

— Jurgen Buchenau,  
Chair, Department of History

fectly captured my ideas about teaching and learning a foreign language. Thus, I wanted to become a FLTA because I wanted to share my experiences and inspire others to discover Brazil and Portuguese language through creative teaching, dance, literature, music and group conversation.

### Q: What have you accomplished thus far?

A: This opportunity has given me the chance to start projects from the ground up. Last semester I acted more in classroom and also participated in cultural panels promoted by the Office of International Programs. This semester, I'm in the classroom but I'm also promoting activities with the Portuguese Club like conversation tables, cultural workshops, Brazilian national dance classes, and film screenings. I'm also planning a project where students will connect with a Brazilian friend and use the language outside of class, learning more informal vocabulary and gaining fluency. I hope these activities will motivate them to continue their studies.

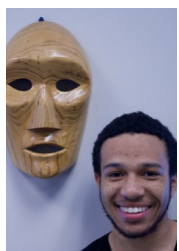
### Q: What inspired you to apply to become a FLTA?

A: When I saw the program's slogan was "Teaching my language is sharing my world," I felt that it per-

## Art, culture and technology collide in the Language Resource Center

The intersection of art, culture, and technology has transformed the Language Resource Center (LRC) into an interactive art gallery this year. Beginning last fall, work study student Jarred Hamilton curated the exhibit "Mask," which included hand-crafted masks from eight different cultures. Each artifact is tagged with a QR Code allowing the viewer to learn

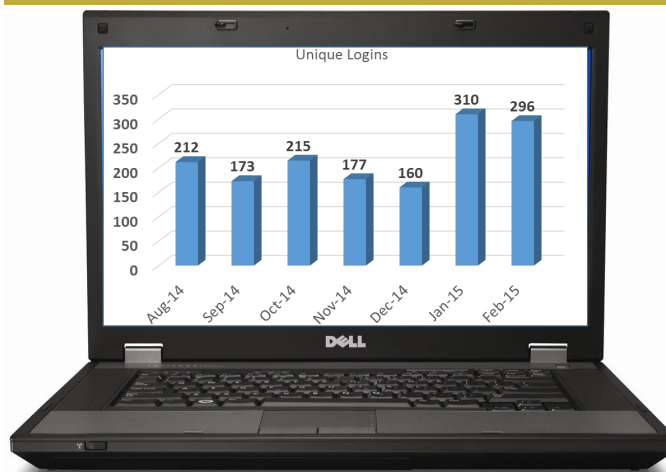
more about the mask, for example viewing a video of the artisan who demonstrates the process or reading a background text that elaborates the origin of the mask design.



This semester, a multimedia wall welcomes LRC patrons with rotating images from around the world on computer screens displayed just inside the center. Bobby Hobgood, LRC director, plans to showcase image content from international students at the English Language Training Institute (ELTI) as well as departmental students.

In collaboration with faculty from ELTI and the department, Hobgood will facilitate new revolving displays of student stories to be shared via the multimedia wall. The idea is that students will create a revolving display that tells either a story of their own culture or a culture they are studying via images and text. Faculty are encouraged to visit and consider how students can demonstrate their understanding of the target culture through digital storytelling displays shared via this unique exhibit.

## Language Resource Center Computer Use



Student use of the Language Resource Center continues to grow as faculty integrate Web-based content and technology tools into their courses. This data illustrates the growing number of unique student logins to LRC computers since the start of the 2014 Fall semester.

## Congratulations to our graduates!



### A note from Sheri Spaine Long, department chair

The New Year kicked off with our exciting partnership with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO). In January, the CSO donated over one hundred tickets to university students studying languages to attend Strauss's *Don Quixote*. Since then more tickets have been made available. Our students are thrilled to build on their knowledge of cultures through classical music. Thank you, CSO!

In February we co-hosted an international symposium titled Translation versus Globalization. Here are some highlights:

- We hosted 100 guests hailing from eight states and five foreign countries, who addressed topics in eight languages.
- We honored our twenty-year exchange partner Université de Limoges and made plans for a collaborative publication as well as future student and faculty exchange. Thank you to Dr. Bertrand Westphal!
- We made plans with

new exchange partner Universidad de Málaga (UMA), who was represented by Dr. Emilio Ortega Arjonilla.

→ We involved alumni in the symposium. Thank you to Michelle Menard of Choice Translating and Anna Gallant of Gallant Language Consulting!

presentation on *The Seven Mysteries of Japanese Business Management*, and Osaka City University students introduced us to the concept of Ninjo!

The 2015 German Language and Culture Foundation (GLCF) Scholarship Reception was a vibrant event hosted by Dr. Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau. Our German Studies students were showcased as they plan to study abroad in Germany at a Goethe Institute or the International Summer University Kassel. The GLCF gives each student a \$2,000 scholarship to support UNC Charlotte German majors with a total of \$65,000.

Finally, graduate student Liane She and Business Coordinator Carol Hartley were among the 2015 Honorees at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Women's Day Celebration on campus!

Thank you all for your continued participation and support of the UNC Charlotte Department of Languages and Culture Studies.

Sheri Spaine Long  
Professor and Chair



Long introduces keynote presenter Esther Allen at the 2015 Translation vs. Globalization symposium.

In March we hosted Japanese American Relations: A Cross Cultural Undergraduate Student Conference. Consul General Kazuo Sunaga of Japan spoke to students about the Carolinas and Japan. The keynote speaker, Mr. Hajime Nakanishi, Toshiba International, gave a lively



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