



# ACCENT!

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES AT UNCG

## LLC Celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall



On November 7, 2014 The UNCG German Program hosted a symposium entitled “**Looking Back, Moving Forward: the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.**”

Thanks to a generous grant from the German Embassy, the symposium included a variety of events. Scholars from across the UNCG campus and from institutions near and far shared their research on the historical, political, economic, and cultural ramifications of Germany’s divided past and the fall of the Berlin Wall. UNCG art professor Sheryl Oring kicked off the day live via videoconferencing from her art exhibition on the fall of the Berlin Wall which is currently on display in The Kennedys Museum in Berlin. UNCG German students showed their creative talents by designing a “photo booth” in the shape of a *Trabi* (an East German car). Students also delivered speeches in the spirit of the Monday Demonstrations, and created a human “Berlin Wall” to symbolically perform its fall. The day was a tremendous success and provided many great opportunities for stimulating engagement with the implications of the fall of the Berlin Wall for Germany and beyond!

## GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS

In September we celebrated the sixth **Annual Asian Fall Festival**, with opening remarks delivered by **Dr. Roberto Campo**. Numerous student groups organized displays of aikido, origami, traditional Korean dresses, or calligraphy. Groups and organizations such as the UNCG J-Club, UNCG Korean Student Association, Greensboro Chinese Association, and the department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures joined forces to emphasize once



more the importance of intercultural understanding and community outreach. This spring, members of the **Global Village** went to Scuppernon Books to spend some time with international exchange students. Students also visited The Artist Bloc to create a series of canvases in order to visualize the Global Village and its encounters with the world.



**Mystery Object for this issue...**

Can you guess the cultural significance of this item? Find the answer at the end of the newsletter!



## FOCUS ON STUDENT AND FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

Students in **Chiaki Takagi's** JNS 499 course visited a fourth-grade class at Brooks Global Studies school in the fall to teach Japanese language and culture. This was a great opportunity for Chiaki's students to share their knowledge of a less commonly taught language with the community and enhance children's global awareness.

With a group of students, **Susanne Gomoluch** started the **UNCG-German Club**. Together with the German Club members, she organized several events for the students and the UNCG community such as movie screenings or informational booths in the EUC. In cooperation with the Global Village, the German Club organized the third annual *Oktoberfest*, and also launched the Grammar Walk-In Clinic at the end of the fall semester to offer students of German help in preparation for the forthcoming final exams.

LLC celebrated **Chinese New Year** in February and rang in the year of the Goat. It's the longest public holiday in China, and was celebrated in the department with traditional arts performances as well as Chinese beverages and dishes. This was the largest and most festive

reception we have had so far. The Year of the Goat bodes well!

At the Russian Fall Cooking event, Russian folk singer **Victoria Saltzman** sang many Russian and Ukrainian songs and told students about her time in a professional folk group back in Russia. *Pirozhki* with meat were served with two kinds of salads and *borsch* (soup). There were about 25 students from all three levels present.



## STUDENT SUCCESS



**Amanda Ingman**, French and IGS double major, was awarded the John Philip Couch Scholarship by NCAATF for study abroad at the Université de Lausanne during spring 2015.

**Jamie Luckhaus**, **Phoebe Ogunwobi**, **Joshua Rath**, and **Anastasia Shymanovich** were inducted into UNCG's chapter of the National German Honorary Society at its annual ceremony on February 12, 2015, organized by **Brooke Kreitinger**. The chapter also honored **Penelope Pynes**, Associate Provost for International Programs at UNCG, with an honorary membership for her outstanding contributions in promoting the study of German and German culture, particularly by establishing the study abroad exchange program with Germany for the UNC system.

**Nathan Cales** received the John Philip Couch Fellowship from NC-AATF for study abroad in Rennes, France for the upcoming academic year.

**Nicole Schachter**, a graduating senior of German, placed first at the Honors Undergraduate Research Symposium within the arts and humanities category. **Carola Dietkus** served as a moderator for the panel "Longing and Suffering in German Identity." German majors **Ryan Baggett**, **Daniel Foil**, and **Will Hueholt** were the three other panelists.

Two of our Japanese students recently participated in the **Duke Japanese Speech Contest**, and have made us very proud of their impressive achievements. **Jesi Ruth** (Level 2) won 1st place, and **Alice Goldstein** (Level 3) received 3rd place recognition. A big congratulations to you both!

**Andrea Mundula** (HIS & FRE) and **Brittany Sneller** (FRE & IGS) received the Student Excellence Award, the University's highest academic honor. Congrats to all of our amazing students!



## FOCUS ON LLC FACULTY

**Claudia Cabello-Hutt's** article entitled "Tejiendo un sueño americano: el poder de la redes de Gabriela Mistral con los Estados Unidos en los años 20 y 30" was published in *Ediciones Uniandes* of the Universidad de los Andes in Columbia. Claudia also won this year's Teaching Excellence Award for a junior faculty member.

**Ignacio López Alemany** was elected to the Executive Council of the Cervantes Society of America, which is dedicated to the study of the life and works of Miguel de Cervantes and promotion of communication and cooperation among Cervantes scholars .

**Cybelle McFadden's** monograph *Gendered Frames, Embodied Cameras: Varda, Akerman, Cabreera, Calle, and Maiwenn* was published in May 2014. Cybelle was also awarded the P3 grant and the Regular Faculty Grant to conduct research in Paris for her new book project, *Franco-Arab Cinema: Transnational and Transcultural Crossings*.

**Chiaki Takagi** was named the 2014 Teacher of the Year Award winner for the American Association of Teachers of Japanese. She received this well-deserved honor at the San Diego ACTFL conference in November 2014.

In an effort to convey solidarity and establish cross cultural-dialogue in the wake of the recent tragic



*Photo courtesy of the News & Record*

shooting of three Muslim students in Chapel Hill, **Claudia Cabello-Hutt** (featured above), **Jose Felipe Troncoso** and other LLC members participated with members of the greater Greensboro community in an event called Sit to Stand Together, which took place at the Islamic Center of Greensboro.

**Alice Hill, Tatia Beal, and Carola Dietkus** are this year's recipients of the Above and Beyond Excellence Awards for their outstanding commitment to our students.

**Carola Dietkus** received her PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. *Wir gratulieren, Carola!*

Our colleagues **Carola Dietkus, Cybelle McFadden, Veronica Grossi, and Susanne Rinner** presented their engaging research in the context of the topic "Gendered Transgressions Across Cultures" during the Women and Gender Studies Faculty Dialogue hosted by LLC in November.

With a presentation entitled "Visions, Dreams, and Divinations – Literature and Science around 1800," **Susanne Gomoluch** discussed her research with faculty and students at The Food for Thought Lunch Series hosted by the Lloyd International Honors College in February 2015.



Hats off to all of our truly amazing and inspiring faculty!



## STUDENT & ALUMNI EXCELLENCE

**Emma Catherine Howell-Monroy**, current PhD student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was awarded the Prix Recherche for graduate students at the 20th/21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium in Baton Rouge for her paper entitled "Creating Space: Zeina Abirached's Mourir partir revenir : Le jeu des hirondelles."

**Lizely López** received her master's degree in Spanish in the fall of 2014. She is moving to Lexington, Kentucky to continue her studies in Spanish in the PhD Program at the University of Kentucky in the fall

of 2015. *¡Buena suerte!*

**Karen Chapman** received an SPFFA fellowship to study at the Université Laval in Québec, Canada during summer 2015.

**Brant Miller** (FRE & SPA) has been accepted to both American University and George Washington University's graduate programs in Public Policy. He will start one of the programs in the fall.

**Katherine Langley** (IGS and FRE) was awarded the Benjamin Franklin Travel Grant to France by the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.

A big congratulations to all of our amazing alumni!

### We say hello to...

**Helen Horton** joined us in June 2014. As the Administrative Office Assistant Helen has made herself indispensable by supporting students and faculty alike.

Japanese and Asian Studies welcomed **Yosei Sugawara**. Yosei holds a PhD in Language, Reading, and Culture (Sociocultural Studies) from the University of Arizona, and moved to Greensboro together with his wife, four dogs, and three cats.

**Ben Davis** joined us as a lecturer in German. He earned his PhD with a dissertation on masculinities and politics and seventeenth-century German drama from Washington University in St. Louis. We also welcome Visiting Assistant Professor of German **Susanne Gomoluch** who holds a PhD in German from UNC-Chapel Hill. **Andrea Kofler** is this year's Fulbright Teaching Assistant in German, and has been busy teaching and organizing socials and events for students of German.

And last but not least, we give a warm welcome to **Ginger León** who did wonderful work during her first year in LLC and helped launch our new ASL minor!

### We say goodbye to...

After more than four decades at UNCG, **Margo Bender** has decided to retire, and missed, she will be.

Margo has always taken pictures of our gatherings to celebrate the beginning of an academic year, a Christmas party, a colleague's professional recognition, a retirement for a beloved colleague, or our students enjoying a magnificent time in Spain under her supervision. She has filled our inboxes with many wonderful memories that will stay with us and future generations of UNCG faculty and students. She has been a generous and humorous colleague that will remain in our collective memory as the legendary Margo, with her comfy sandals and her wild red hair. Her wisdom as a teacher, colleague and a delightful human being will also be remembered. It has truly been a privilege to work with you all these years, Margo!

### Mystery Object Revealed...

The *erhu* is a bowed two-stringed musical instrument, or more specifically, a spike fiddle. It is also known as a Chinese violin, or a Chinese two-stringed fiddle.



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