



ACCENT!

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

LLC CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR: YEAR OF THE SNAKE

On February, 8th the Chinese Program organized a Chinese New Year reception to celebrate the Year of the Snake! The festivities were kicked off by a warm welcome speech delivered by Department Head Dr. Amy Williamsen. Approximately 100 students and faculty members gathered to enjoy Chinese cuisine and a variety of cultural performances and activities. Competitions included chopsticks, hot potato, and ping-pong challenges. According to Chinese lecturer Wing Shan Ho, "The event brought together people of different cultures



-Chopsticks Challenge with students and Dr. Amy Williamsen-



-Students at the event participate in Chinese calligraphy

and promoted the awareness of cultural diversity. Through writing Chinese calligraphy, using chopsticks, and playing ping-pong, Chinese learners experienced Chinese tradition and Chinese lifestyle."

Special thanks to **Wing Shan Ho** and **Meiqing Sun** for organizing this spectacular cultural event!

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON SLAVIC STUDIES

UNCG, along with Elon University and Wake Forest University, proudly hosted the 51st annual gathering of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS), March 21-23rd, 2013. The purpose of SCSS, the oldest and largest affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, is clear: to promote scholarship, education, and in all other ways to advance scholarly interest in Russian, Soviet, and East European studies in the Southern region of the United States. Every year for over 40 years the SCSS has sponsored a conference, bringing together the finest scholars in the country in an intellectually challenging yet friendly

atmosphere. The organizing committee invited the musical group *Mappamundi* to perform at the opening session of the SCSS. The group plays international folk music of the Central and Eastern European world, particularly Slavic music. In addition, the lead performer, Beth Holmgren, is a professor of Slavic literature at Duke University and an expert on Slavic folk music traditions. This performance was sponsored by UNCG, The Kohler Fund of the International Program Center, and the Global Village. The conference was attended by more than 150 scholars, including ten students from the Russian Studies program, who worked as volunteers and took in some scholarly panels as well.



Mystery Object for this issue...

Which culture uses this porcelain figure? Flip to the end of the newsletter to check your answer!



FOCUS ON FACULTY AND STAFF

We say goodbye to...

Kerri Clavette, Office Assistant, who has accepted a position as Senior Research Associate with a firm based in Winston-Salem. We will miss you, Kerri, and we wish you success at your new job!

David Fein's (FRE) article, "Text and Image Mirror Play in Guyot Marchant's 1485 *Danse Macabre*" has been accepted for publication in *Neophilologus*. Congratulations, David!

The UNCG Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development has appointed **Andreas Lixl** (GER) as the Center for New North Carolinians (CNNC) Research Fellow! We applaud his outstanding work in promoting research, community outreach and best practices in immigrant acculturation.

Congratulations to **Susanne Rinner** (GER) and **Arndt Niebisch** (GER) on their recent promotion to tenure!

We congratulate **Chiaki Takagi** on the 2012-2013 UNCG Alumni Teaching Excellence Award! Way to go, Chiaki!



-Students celebrate with Teaching Excellence Award winner Chiaki Takagi

GLOBAL VILLAGE PROMOTES LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES AT UNCG

This semester Global Village sponsored a musical/dance event centering on the Argentinian Tango, featuring Argentine-born singer Lorena Guillén, composer Alejandro Ruty, Violinists Jezqui Carrasco and Fabián López (all UNCG faculty) and Tango dancer Cazanetz Moreira.



Among other Global Village events was a presentation by Rinara Rahimova, an opera singer from Azerbaijan.

Many thanks to **Carmen Sotomayor** (SPA), **Susanne Rinner** (GER) and **David Fein** (FRE) for their key roles in making Global Village a success!



-GV student facilitators Hernán Sedda and Sho Morita attend the GV booth at UNCG's annual I-Fest.



-Global Village and LLC show solidarity during first-ever LLC flash mob in Fall 2012



-Dance couple Cazanetz-Moreira perform the Tango for the Global Village sponsored Tango Nostalgia event.



GRADUATE STUDENTS GOING STRONG

In April the graduate students of **Amy Williamsen's** Spanish 603 class, Performing Identity, presented a reenactment of the Spanish Golden Age comedia *La traición en la amistad* by María de Zayas y Sotomayor. The performance kept audience members at the edge of their seats as they witnessed lies, deceptions and betrayals unfold before their very eyes. The performance was followed by an interactive roundtable discussion including actors, directors and members of the audience. *¡Buen trabajo, alumnos!*



STUDENT SUCCESS

Pi Delta Phi, the National French Honor Society, inducted five new members at UNCG: **Brian Pennington, Kayla Jackson, Andrea Mundula, Amadou Saidou, and Sophia Lucente**. *Recevez nos plus vives félicitations!*



Congratulations to German Weeks 2012 campus winners **Jason Greer** (far left) and **Nicole Schachter** (third from left) who traveled to Washington DC to compete in the nationwide Think Transatlantic campus competitions hosted by the German Embassy.



LLC also has the honor of announcing this year's Outstanding Major Awards among our graduating students: **Victoria Basile** (Spanish), **Taylor Burton** (French), and **Kayla Cavanaugh** (German). Congratulations and good luck!

THE ACCENT ON... AMAZING ALUMS!

Alumni **Austin Spears** (2012, Computer Science) and **Alex Kilgore** (2012, Computer Science) received the 2012 Innovation Award from the Datawatch Corporation for their work on CJK (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) character sets. Together they introduced the ability to work with Japanese full-width characters in the company's software. Austin and Alex both took two years of Japanese at UNCG and credit their recent achievement to their experiences and background in our Japanese language program. Congratulations, Austin and Alex! おめでとうございます!



French alumna **Taylor Burton** has been accepted into NYU's MA program in French and rewarded with a full scholarship! *Félicitations, Taylor!*

We also congratulate French alumna and instructor **Emma Howell** on her acceptance to UNC-Chapel Hill's PhD program in French! *Félicitations, Emma!*

Rebecca Doyle, alumna of UNCG's NCTeach program and our ROM 512 class (Methods of Teaching Foreign Languages K-12) has been named Rookie Teacher of the Year at the Penn-Griffin Middle School. Congratulations, Becky!



-LLC's ALSAs, from top left: Jeffrey Tanner, Taylor Burton, Victoria Basile, Juanis Martínez Rodríguez, Dominique Caldwell (Not pictured: Emily Sykes)

LLC'S AMBASSADORS FOR LANGUAGE STUDY ABROAD

LLC's Ambassadors for Language Study Abroad (ALSAs) for the 2012/2013 academic year were **Victoria Basile, Taylor Burton, Dominique Caldwell, Juanis Martínez Rodríguez, Emily Sykes** and **Jeffrey Tanner**. Our ambassadors have had the opportunity to visit many LLC classrooms to share their experiences abroad, often accompanied by a representative from the International Programs Center. They have encouraged many students to consider the numerous study abroad opportunities available here at UNCG, and their success can be seen in the students that have already begun looking into those opportunities as a result. We send a special thank you to all instructors who welcomed ALSAs to their classes, and to the ALSAs themselves for all of their hard work!



Highlighted Spring Activities

SPRING 2013



-Taiko performance at J-Club Spring Celebration-

J-Club Spring Celebration

On Saturday April 6th, UNCG's Japanese Club held their annual J-Club Spring Celebration at the Faculty Center on campus. The student organization led by **Sarah Lee, Kaylee Webster,** and **Claudio Jasso**, supervised by faculty representative and Japanese Program Director **Chiaki Takagi**, welcomed both UNCG students and members of the community to take part in cultural activities from origami (the art of paper folding) to shodō (brushwork calligraphy). The club also sponsored crowd-pleasing public performances by local groups specializing in the traditional art forms of koto, taiko, and aikidō. UNCG ASA

(Asian Students Association) members contributed to the festivities with a special K-Pop dance number and former Japanese student **Joshua Beane** performed both classic and original Japanese pieces with fellow musician **Junko Fujiyama**. Thanks to the efforts of our J Club students, the event attracted a large audience throughout the day, both current students of Japanese language and culture as well as inspired UNCG parents and students on campus for Destination UNCG. J Clubの皆様、楽しくて、大変お世話になり、誠にありがとうございました！

Spanish Linguistics in North Carolina (SLINKI) Conference

LLC linguists **Mariche Bayonas** and **Kelly Lowther Pereira** hosted this year's SLINKI conference in January. Linguists from fellow institutions across the state presented their research on a variety of linguistic topics including Spanish phonetics, syntax, morphology, sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, second language acquisition and heritage language education. The conference was a great success and we are proud to have been chosen as the host institution this year!



-Drs. Jim Michnowicz and Scott Despain of NC State University present at the SLINKI conference at UNCG



Mystery Object Revealed...

The manekineko, 招き猫 "beckoning cat," is a porcelain figure commonly found in the entrances to shops and business in Japan. Many manekineko are depicted with gold coins, symbolizing good fortune and wealth, hence the association with business owners. This manekineko holds a red daruma doll, a symbol of good luck, perseverance, and wish fulfillment.



German Day 2013

The German Program hosted the 13th annual German Day on Wednesday, March 6th. Over 550 German students from 22 schools in NC participated in the many fun competitions and events including German Karaoke, and the Harlem Shake. Students also spelled, conjugated, recited poetry, sang, created art, and answered culture questions to this year's theme: *Deutsch ist Handy!* (German is practical or cell phone since Germans have adopted the English-sounding word Handy for cell phone!) At the end of the day, the Awards Ceremony convinced everyone not only: *Deutsch ist Handy!* but also *Deutsch macht Spaß!* (German is fun!)

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Languages,
Literatures,
and Cultures

