

CONCORDIA UNCG

DISCOVERING OURSELVES + OTHERS THROUGH THE EXPLORATION OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES



~Jordan Kirkpatrick (left) and Steven Nguyen

Asian Autumn Festival

みなさん、こんにちは！

Hello, everyone! A gathering of friends and family. Food is on the table, laughter fills the air, and thanks are directed upwards. This is the way in which a typical Autumn Moon Festival is commemorated. Friends and family gather to give thanks for the crops which allow them life throughout the year. On September 28th, UNC-Greensboro participated in celebrating 你好 coming of another harvest. Friends from all over helped in representing many different cultures from China, Korea, Vietnam, and Japan.

Representing Japan, the **UNCG Japanese Club**, alongside **Anime Society**, celebrated with an Onigiri (rice ball) with Tea

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table, Origami table, and a Cosplay Fashion Show. At the Onigiri and Tea table, guests were treated to green tea and fresh-made onigiri, which were prepared with the help of three Japanese exchange students. Over at the Origami table things were a little more hectic as members hurried to reach the steady demands of visitors.

According to **Jenny Tran**, member of J-Club, "It was fun helping at the table. Most of the kids I taught were focused and seemed to enjoy making something of their own. Some of them wanted more intricate origami, but I helped as much as I could with what they wanted."



Another activity organized by **J-Club** and Anime Society was a Cosplay Fashion Show, where members dressed as their favorite characters from television shows, both animated and live-action, as well as video game characters. **Tammy Le**, Vice-President of Anime Society and announcer for the fashion show gave this assessment: "The show was a really good way for people to see a more modern view of the Japanese culture. Seeing all of the amazing performances from the other clubs was a little scary, but in the end I was proud of our members, and their representation of modern Japan."



Mandarin Corner

你好! At least twice a month, a group of students gathers together for an hour of conversation. However, anyone overhearing would immediately know that this is no ordinary conversation, but one done in a mixture of Chinese and English! This event is known as **Mandarin Corner**, where Chinese language students and native Chinese speakers sit down for a fun and challenging afternoon to practice their speaking skills. Chinese students of all levels are encouraged, and sometimes required, to participate in this awesome opportunity to improve their Chinese.



Chinese Professor **Meiqing Sun**, who is always looking for ways to further engage Chinese language students, is the founder and coordinator of this event. At each event a different topic is chosen which students use to guide their conversation and to practice Chinese grammar and vocabulary. Many of the international Chinese students volunteer to help language students practice using the vocabulary and grammar that they learn in their classes. Mandarin Corner also provides the international students an opportunity to improve their English since language students cannot converse entirely in Chinese due to limited vocabulary knowledge. Students describe this event as "really helpful" and "fun", and they love the snacks!



Student Profile: Jordan Griffin (Chinese)



Jordan Griffin, age 20, is a Lloyd International Honors College student, currently seeking a degree in Media Studies, with a minor in Business. A junior here at UNCG, he is in the process of completing his second year of Chinese. In addition to Chinese, he has also studied some Spanish and Russian. He plans to study abroad in China both over the summer and in the fall of 2014 for more intensive language study.

What sparked your interest in Chinese language and culture? I've studied Spanish since I was five and I just wanted to try something completely different. Everyone always talked about how hard Chinese would be, and I wanted a challenge.

What has been the hardest part of learning Chinese? And what studying techniques do you use? Remembering how to write characters that you never use. I've found the Pleco app very useful for studying Chinese.

Have you ever been to China? If so, how was that experience? I went to China with a friend who lives in Yizheng and stayed with his family for three months. It was an eye-opening experience. You watch documentaries about China but actually being there is just – you have to be there. Experiencing Chinese culture and hospitality was amazing. I would definitely encourage others to travel to China; the culture is great and the economy is booming.

Are you involved in any extracurricular activities that center on Chinese language or culture? I am an intern for New Mind Education, an organization that helps Chinese students assimilate into American culture. It's really great working with them and the students are lovable. We do various activities to help them experience American culture, like going to Woods of Terror. It's great to be able to share a part of your culture with someone else.

What advice would you give to other students seeking to study Chinese? Don't be afraid. Find a Chinese friend and practice as much as you can and take advantage of oral tutorial.



French Club Rendez-Vous!



Salut tout le monde! The **French Club** is a place for fun and conversation. Here we enjoy playing games like charades in French and we also enjoy the food and culture of France and Francophone countries. Newly renamed as **Rendez-Vous**, the French Club seeks to expand its membership, and also interact with other campus organizations. Our most common event is conversation night, where we speak to each other in French about the topic of the day. We also always have snacks and drinks at each of these events and try to maintain a fun atmosphere where you can enjoy learning.

The club is not exclusively for those in a French class or those with a French major or minor. It is for those interested in the French language and culture. The best way to learn a language is to make it fun and

surround yourself with others aspiring to do the same thing, and at Rendez-Vous, we hope to do just that. Not only do you further your language skills, you also make friendships and memories that can last throughout your college career.



Student Profile: Christa Johnson (French)



What got you interested in French?
I love languages, French was my first one.

When did you start studying French?
Middle School, 8th grade.

What is your favorite part about French?
How beautiful it

sounds, very romantic. I love the liaison and how words connect, it sounds so beautiful connected.

What got you interested in the French club?
I had a great French club in HS and I wanted to get involved as soon as I got to college. I started as the French club president at Gardner-Webb and when I transferred here I took the same opportunity to become president at UNCG.

What advice would you give to people starting out in French? Get involved, not just with French club, but surround yourself with the culture and people if you want to grow in your ability. Music, club, food, friends, etc.

What do you enjoy most about French Club?
The food and being able to communicate with people who are on the same level.

Do you have any plans to visit France in the future?

Either France or Haiti this summer; Haiti because I want to teach English or go on a mission trip. France to study or teach English.

How do you plan on using French once you graduate from UNCG?

To teach French after graduation. Getting my ESL license to teach both English and French.

Do you do anything else to practice your French outside of class?

Mostly watch movies to help my French. I will watch French movies or American movies with French subtitles.



OKTOBERFEST



Guten Tag! Loads of free food, people who share an interest in the German language, or just an interest in German culture. Could things be any better? Of course I'm referring to the 2013 **UNCG Oktoberfest**.

Every year UNCG has its own smaller version of the Oktoberfest. Upon entering, I found myself encompassed by students who share my own interest in German. There were students of all different skill levels practicing what they had learned in their German language class. I was amazed by the level of camaraderie among the twenty to thirty students who attended, most of whom had probably never met before. In addition to students taking a German language class, others who were just interested came by to see what was going on. There was real German cuisine, such as bratwurst and pretzels,

which not only smelled good but was freshly cooked by **Frau Dwyer**. This is one of many German events across campus that I highly recommend. *Viel Spaß!*



Student Profile: Akasha Buzov (German)



Can you tell us where you are from and your name? My name is **Akasha Buzov** and I was born in Mannheim, Germany.

When did you move to the U.S.? I moved when I was a child.

So because you were born in Germany is that where your interest in learning German came from? Well, I have always had a strong interest in learning the German language and culture.

What are you majoring in? I plan on a dual major in German and Art.

What are your opinions about the German language faculty? I am very pleased with the German teachers here; it is very fortunate that we have the wonderful opportunity to learn from native German speakers.

Which German class are you currently enrolled in this semester? I am currently enrolled in Green Germany 306, which is a class taught in German and focuses on the environment through the German perspective.

Would you recommend this class or any other German class to others? I would recommend a German literature class because it is extremely challenging but worth it!

Do you attend any of the German events on campus or read or watch German news? I am unfortunately very busy this semester so I cannot attend all the events I would like, such as Oktoberfest. To answer the second part of the question I do read German news articles once a blue moon on a website called "das Spiegel."



Italian Conversation Hour



Benvenuti alla conversazione italiana! Every Monday a few dedicated lovers of the Italian language congregate on the second floor of the Jefferson Memorial library for **Italian Conversation Hour**. These sessions are coordinated by Milan native **Simone Cappati**. Cappati has journeyed throughout the world to such places as Dubai and China teaching both Italian and English.

During the Italian Conversation Hour, Simone's priority is practicing and reinforcing the grammar that students have learned in their respective classes. The event is divided into two separate sessions for beginners and advanced learners. The advanced session is centered on learning to critically analyze art in the Italian language. We are introduced to advanced Italian terminology often used in discussing paintings and sculptures. Later, we incorporate this terminology in describing the "Nascita di Venere" (Birth of Venus) of renowned Italian

Renaissance artist Botticelli. Students are also asked to read a biography on Botticelli which serves to improve our Italian pronunciation. The beginner's session involves a more traditional conversational style. Students are asked to give a brief self-introduction and discuss their day. Italian Conversation Hour is masterfully conducted by Simone and is extremely beneficial. I advise all students and lovers of Italian to attend at least once this semester!



Student Profile: Jennifer Belcher (Italian)



Hometown:
Charleston, WV

Classification:
PhD candidate in
Elementary Ed/
Teacher Ed/
Higher Ed

Language/Course:
Italian 101

Last summer, Jennifer took a short vacation to Italy that transformed her life.

What attracted you initially to Italian language and culture? I fell in love with Ancient Roman history during high school.

How would you describe your first visit to Italy? It was a fantastic cultural adventure. I was captivated by the warmth of its people.

What aspect of Italian culture do you find most intriguing? I adore their family-oriented nature and their general optimism.

What's your most memorable moment there? I was moved to tears by the majesty of St. Peter's Basilica.

What Italian dish/snack did you find the most irresistible? Mozzarella di Bufala.

What is your favorite Italian word/phrase? "Il dolce far niente" ---- "delightful idleness"

If you had a choice to live in Italy, what city or region would you choose? Rome

Do you plan to live there in the future? My goal is to teach English in Rome at the elementary school level in the near future.

Student Profile: Moemi Tokunaga (Japanese)

こんにちはみなさん! **Moemi Tokunaga** is an English Literature major. Her love for books had been with her since childhood, though limited to Japanese until she read *Haruki Murakami* which is a translation of *The Cather in Rye*. Since then she has been interested in English literature; her favorite author is J.D. Salinger.

What was your first impression when you got here?

I had first thought about it in a different way, but when I got here everyone was so nice to me. I had heard of "Southern Hospitality," I had known the word, but it is true. Japanese people shy away, but here people talk to you.

What image do you have of yourself?

I came here to change myself, since I am too shy or introverted. But I believe that studying abroad will make me change a lot.

How are classes in Japan?

There are many classes, 10 classes, not as spaced as classes here, but they are shorter in time. Many Japanese only study abroad to improve their own major, they do not do it to improve their English. This is why a lot of Japanese have problems speaking in English. I did not think I would be talking a lot of English when I got here, but everyone is nice and speaks to me.

What is your favorite food here?

I tried the Chicken Waffle downtown and it was very good. Also the 5 Guys Burger is the best burger ever!



Cooking at Kate's!



Здравствуйте от русских студентов! The annual “Cooking at Kate’s” gathering was a rousing success. Twenty students and instructors gathered at **Professor Kate Colon’s** home to prepare, and more importantly, eat a few traditional Russian dishes. After a delicious meal, the gathering settled in for chocolate kielbasa and the classic movie “*Prisoner of the Caucasus*”.

The conversation never lagged, covering Russian traditions, international politics and culture, and how to chop onions without tears.

Оливье (“oleevey”) is a type of potato salad. *Винегрет* (“viniyret”) is a lovely fuchsia beet salad. *Piroshky* are filled dough balls filled with spiced meat or potato. The dessert was a recipe from the ration years -- cocoa, cookies, butter, and condensed milk. It was a simple meal that pleased all, to the refrain of “*Приятного аппетита!*”



Student Profile: Sean Norton (Russian)



Sean Norton is a Political Science and Russian Studies major, who has been studying Russian since the 9th grade. He was able to study abroad in Cheboksary (on the Volga River) on a State Department NSLI for Youth grant.

Why Russia and Russian Studies?
It's crazy. Everything is simultaneously always moving and yet gets done very slowly, which is what makes it so interesting. The people are the same way. While there, I realized how fascinating Russia really is.

It's just ridiculously large and more ethnically diverse than most people realize, with a very complicated and entertaining history. You really can't run out of things to study when it comes to Russia.

What impressed you about Russians?
Friends are much more important. Friends can just stop in anytime and they're happy to receive you and drink some tea (or some booze) and snack on something while talking about life.

What was your favorite snack?
Pelmeni! It's like the ramen of Russia, only it doesn't give you hypertension!

☀ **¡Café Olé!** ☀

Café Olé is a Spanish language hour hosted by **Wendy Jones-Worden**, a Spanish instructor at UNCG. Each Wednesday, beginning at 5:00 pm, a surprise guest gives a presentation about something related to the Spanish-speaking world. There is a wide variety of presentations such as the music of Chile or the city of Andalucía. The key aspect of *Café Olé* is that all of the presentations are in Spanish. Everyone is welcome to participate. Though no English is spoken, visual aids on the PowerPoint make it easy to follow along.

The purpose of *Café Olé* is to strengthen your Spanish skills. Even if you have never studied Spanish, you can become quite proficient in a language by means of immersion. You are also introduced to many speakers with very distinct accents.

According to **Dr. Jody Natalie**, Professor of Intercultural Communication and a frequent participant of *Café Olé*, "It is important to listen, keep your language skills going, and learn about other cultures." You also have the opportunity to practice speaking by asking questions during the presentations. *Café Olé* is fun, welcoming, and perfect for anyone wanting to learn more about the Spanish language and Hispanophone culture.



Student Profile: **Elizabeth Launt (Spanish)**

How long have you had an interest in Spanish?

I've had an interest in Spanish since middle school. My youth group led a trip every other year to Cuba, and I originally started learning it to communicate on the trip.

Have you studied abroad? What kind of impact did it have on your learning Spanish?

I pursued Spanish when I got to college, and had an opportunity to travel when I spent a semester in Cuenca, Spain. It solidified my confidence and understanding that Spanish is more than just a communicative tool - language can influence identity.



What do you feel is the most difficult part of learning Spanish?

Letting go of my English constructs. In Spain I couldn't get hung up on particulars or else I couldn't communicate what I needed. Once I began to learn and understand Spanish in terms of its own rules, I was able to embrace the fluidity of it.

What kind of advice would you give to a student learning Spanish?

To open their mind to the concepts, not just to memorize the vocabulary or other info. Seek out avenues of practice, be it in a club or watching movies. It's like a diet, the more variety and exposure you have, the stronger you get!

Friday Fest

For some students, sitting in a classroom and listening to the professor lecture about the ways of a foreign country is not always the most interesting way to learn about another culture. To learn about it from the first-hand experience of a native of that country sparks the interest of many. **Friday Fest** is a weekly presentation given by the international students who attend UNCG. Each Friday from 2-4pm, students from a particular country give a 30-60 minute presentation about their home country.



“You always learn something. You might think you know about a country, but with native people, you really see different aspects of the country and how they see their countries,” said **Colette de Coattarel**, an exchange student from France and participant of Friday Fest. The presenters talk about many topics from the food or drinks the country is famous for, to what the

people from that country do for fun, to common stereotypes about the country, or even common slang words. The students may even add to the presentation by performing a dance or serving food that is popular in their country. Friday Fest is a fantastic and fun way to learn about other cultures and to make many new friends!



GLOBAL VILLAGE

Founded in fall 2012, **Global Village** is a living learning community at UNCG available only to first-year students. Its purpose is to teach students language and culture of their choice and also to help freshman students with their transition into college. There is a limit of 40 students and this year there are 26. Global Village enables students to study a variety of languages at UNCG: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, and Japanese. In addition to language courses, students are required to take LLC 120 and ISL 101, a service-learning course.

Students in Global Village are housed in Phillips/Hawkins dorm where they can interact with one another, as well as the international students. They participate in language conversation hours, cultural dinners, movie nights in the dorm, and go on field trips. Global Village will also hold a Holiday Celebration event on Dec. 3rd, where visitors can experience cultural activities and food dishes.

Overall, students have indicated that they have enjoyed their experience in Global Village. As a recent initiative, Global Village is still growing and is sure to become a great attraction to students seriously interested in language study.



~ Members participate in August 2013 Global Village retreat at Elsewhere in downtown Greensboro

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