



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

Accent!

FALL 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the **Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures** at UNCG!

Though the Department has only existed since July 1st of this year, we are building on the strong foundation provided by the departments formerly known as **Romance Languages**, and **German and Russian**. In the few months we have been together, we have already accomplished a great deal (defining our [mission statement](#), linking classes via satellite with Germany and France, publishing books and articles by faculty and students, establishing an “LLC Works” colloquia series, orchestrating over 100 students “Reading Russian in the Park,” hosting a field trip for a Spanish middle school class, designing a proposal for a living learning community (“[UNCG Global Village](#)”) and we have managed to have fun along the way (picture two dozen faculty members dancing to Zumba—



you will be forced to use your imagination because all photographic evidence was mercifully destroyed.)

And this is only the beginning...Please join us in **“Discovering ourselves+others through explorations in languages, literatures, and cultures.”**

Enjoy this brief inaugural issue of our newsletter **Accent!** (P.S. Please keep in touch. We’d love to hear from you!)

- ❖ Amazing Alums
- ❖ Spotlight on Students
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- ❖ Staff Superstars



This Issue’s Mystery

(Can you guess what it is?...See end of this issue for the answer!)



Amazing Alums

Our UNCG alums are truly amazing. We could fill reams of paper with their accomplishments; here, we feature just a few:

- Tom (Thomas) Liles, (German, IGS, Music Performance, 2011), received a Critical Language Scholarship to take intensive Russian courses at the Federal University of Kazan in Tatarstan, Russia, this summer. He is now working as an intern for the European Center for Minority Issues.
- Souleymane Bah (French, 2010) was named Rookie Teacher of the Year, Western Guilford High School – quite an accomplishment, especially given that he was commuting between two positions in two different cities. Congratulations Souleymane!
- Miriam Keller (Teacher Licensure from School of Education, BS, German Major, Honors; 2009) wrote a highly original research paper for a class that investigated the representation of education and the educational system in Christa Wolf's *Der geteilte Himmel*. She later published a revised version in a peer-reviewed undergraduate research journal.

http://kennesawtower.hss.kennesaw.edu/Vol2_2010.2011.html

- A generous gift from Mrs. Ruth P. Heinemann will enable future generations of our students to experience the transformative experience of studying abroad that has enriched the lives of many UNCG students. In her own words, *"Having received my degree in 1947 from WCUNC and consequently become a high school Spanish teacher for several years, I feel fortunate to have been adequately educated for my profession. It is critical that teachers understand the literature and culture of the country whose language they teach. The most effective method of gaining all these insights is by foreign travel/study abroad."* She especially hoped to provide future Romance language teachers with the chance to experience languages and cultures firsthand. Our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Heinemann and her family! And a warm congratulations to Mrs. Heinemann for being elected to serve on the Eighteenth-and Nineteenth-Century Spanish Literature Division Executive Committee of the MLA!



~ Recent Undergraduate Stephanie Pleasants and Dr. Cybelle McFadden



~ Graduate Student Issa Gakou proudly displays his achievement awards

Spotlight on Students

Graduate

~**Blaine Winford** made the most of his last year at UNCG. He presented two papers, “Vida, educación y alma: representaciones de la evolución transcultural afroecuatoriana en *Juyungo*” at the Carolina Conference on Romance Literatures at UNC-Chapel Hill in March and “El intelectualismo afroecuatoriano, la ambición nacional y la ambivalencia resultante en *Juyungo*” at Georgia Southern University in April. He also published a study “Hielo, fuego y la magia amarilla: el ferrocarril, la massacre bananera, la desilusión y la apatía” in the journal *Calmécac* of the Universidad del Valle de Puebla, Mexico. Over the summer, he traveled to Vanderbilt to pursue research related to his thesis. In January, Blaine will go to Ecuador with the Peace Corps. **Bon voyage** and **Buena suerte!**

~In addition to completing his M.A. successfully, **Issa Gakou** submitted a paper entitled “Seeking El Dorado in EU: Senegal’s Youth Embark Toward an Unknown World” that was accepted for presentation at the *Transatlantics 2012 – 14th Annual USC Comparative Literature Conference* this Spring.

~As she works toward completion of her M.A., **Kristen Hilgartner** made time to present two papers: “La condición de morir en el infierno o esperar en el purgatorio: la crítica social de Rulfo y Donos” at the *17th Annual Carolina Conference on Romance Literatures* and “De la boca de los niños: El martirio del Santo Niño de la Guardia y la expulsión de los judíos de España” at the *Jornada Conferencia* in Rutgers last Fall.

~**Monica Scovell** recently returned from a year-long stay in Angers, France where she worked as an English Lecturer and took graduate-level courses as part of the Graduate Exchange Program at the Université d’Angers. As Monica recalls, “The year I spent in Angers will have a lasting impact on me, from the friends I made, to my better understanding of the French language, culture, and especially the university system.”



~Blaine Winford visits the Parthenon replica, located just a few blocks from Vanderbilt University



~Monica Scovell in front of her apartment in Angers, France



~Dr. Kelly Pereira out in the community with her heritage speakers class



Undergraduate

~“**Most powerful learning experience ever...**” —that’s how students often characterize their involvement in service learning. In fact, research shows that experiential or “high-impact learning experiences not only raise students’ GPAs, they correspond to greater career success later. Our students have a long tradition of working with the community in several outreach efforts; this semester, we added the Community Garden to that list. Take a look (*above*) at pictures of **Kelly Pereira’s** students from her heritage speakers class.

~The Russian Language Society has been working with a group of senior citizens through Jewish Family Services. This term, **John Storm**, an IGS major (Russian Studies) was granted an Americorps paid student position facilitating English as a Second Language in the community, and was delighted to find out that he has been placed with the same group.

~Meanwhile, **Dr. Chiaki Takagi** developed a Student Internship course for the Japanese program that was officially added to the curriculum.

~Current Spanish language student and Communications major **Tori Cox** felt so strongly about her experience that she wrote “Compassion, gratefulness and enjoyment were all the emotions that I underwent during my volunteering experience with the Mother Read Literacy program here in Greensboro.” Click [here](#) to read her full article.



Focus on Faculty

~Of course, none of this would happen without the inspiring leadership and dedication of our faculty. **Veronica Grossi**, **Susanne Rinner** and **Mark Smith Soto** were each honored for their research accomplishments during the College's Merge Celebration of Scholarship. **Ana Hontanilla** received a prestigious Folger Grant to pursue her research on slavery in Spring; **Cybelle McFadden** published an article entitled "Reflected Reflexivity in *Jane B. par Agnès V*". which is featured in *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, 28:4 (2011): 307-324.; **Roberto Campo** was named to the Executive Council of the *Sixteenth Century Society & Conference* (SCSC).

~Many of our faculty have been engaged in research-related travel, from Belfast to Buenos Aires and everywhere in between. Professors **Veronica Grossi** (Belfast), **Claudia Cabello-Hutt** (Bogotá), and **Carmen Sotomayor** (Buenos Aires) all presented papers at international conferences. Professor **Andreas Lixl** travelled to Europe; others, including Professor **Susanne Rinner**, presented at prestigious national conferences.

~LLC was well represented at FLANC in Winston-Salem, where **Amy Williamsen** and **Marcia Wooten** staffed a highly attended booth.

~Professors **Mariche García Bayonas** and **Arndt Niebisch** began a successful series "LLC WORKS" providing an opportunity to discuss our research in progress. **Cybelle McFadden** shared her fascinating study of Bedwin Hacker and **Andreas Lixl** offered his thought-provoking insights into Migration.

~Our instructors continue to amaze us with their creativity and dedication. **Bertrand Landry** continues his immensely popular gastronomic offerings; **Peter Dola** hosts French films, **Jeanine Lino Pérez** coordinated the well-established Latin American Film Festival, **Alfonso Varona** contributed "The Golden Age of Mexican Film;" and **Wendy Jones-Worden's** Café Olé continues to draw record-breaking crowds. **Jackie Daughton** and **Tatia Beale's** successful work in the modified program has been the subject of linguistic research; **Julia Krause** enlivened online instruction with face time, meeting with interested students at Tate Street Coffee; **Silvia Tiboni-Craft** offered Italian conversation for advanced learners who wish to continue beyond our curriculum; **Chiaki Takagi** created several new Japanese courses, including one featuring the devastating earthquake and its consequences.



~From left to right, writer **Mauricio Montiel**, **Ana Hontanilla**, **Felipe Troncoso**, **Claudia Cabello-Hutt**, **Alfonso Varona**

Faculty Emeriti

~We have been delighted to see many of our emeriti faculty and hope to see more of them. A brief update: **Joe Baer** participates actively in Café Olé; **Jane Mitchell** continues to inspire North Carolina educators, working on a history of language instruction in our state including FLANC's pivotal role; **Roch Smith** greets new department head with great stories of Robbe-Grillet as visiting scholar.

~Of course, we all mourn the loss of **Ann Becker**. She left her indelible mark on our department—she enriched the lives of many through her dedicated teaching and skillful administration. She continues to give to our students and the UNCG community through the scholarships she endowed.

Staff Superstars

~We are lucky to have an exceptional staff that supports us in all we do...they always surprise and amaze us. Let us share a few interesting "insights": **Kerri Clavette** served in the Virgin Islands with the National Park Service; **Lisa Janvari** survived 12 years in the corporate world before seeking refuge in academia; and **Marsha Leonhart**, who worked for over two decades as an auditor before joining UNCG, welcomed a new grandson right before Thanksgiving! We thank each of them for their outstanding work on behalf of the department and our students.

~We hope you saw our display in the library – a great visual mapping of our diversity! Thanks to **Susanne Rinner** who took leadership on this and to **Claudia**, **Cybelle**, and all others who contributed. We promise you more exciting developments in our expanded Spring issue (once we test our delivery and production methods).

~Until then, all of us from UNCG's Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures wish you each a Happy Holiday Season!



~This issue's mystery item: A mango fork, used to spear and eat mangoes

