LLC Word Celebration: Poetry Without Borders

LLC hosted “Poetry without Borders: A Celebration of Words” on Friday, October 13th, 2017. The event, sponsored by LLC, brought out the creative side of all LLC students and faculty. LLC’s diversity and shared love for languages were highlighted in this celebration that focused on poetry and its connections to the visual arts, specifically photography. Levels of student participation and faculty involvement was remarkable.

At 3 pm, faculty and students gathered in the Virginia Dare Room (Alumni House) for an afternoon of poetry. The event opened with a visual presentation by photographer and public speaker José Galvez. His very personal and poetical recollections were followed by a poetry reading by distinguished retirees Dr. Roch Smith, Dr. Mark Smith-Soto and Dr. Ramiro Lagos’ spouse Ms. Consuelito Lagos. Selected poems by Ramiro Lagos, read in the original Spanish and in compelling translations, exemplified his poetic trajectory. Dr. Nathalie Dupont (Bucknell University) contributed to the reading with her own poems as well as some by her favorite poets in French. Dr. Veronica Grossi (UNCG) then read her original poetry. Dr. Kathleen Macfie, editor of LLC’s multilingual poetry magazine International Poetry Review, presented some of IPR’s most recent achievements. Illustrated contributions to The Most Poetic Word in Each Language contest provided a rich background.

A very big thanks to Carmen Sotomayor for her efforts in organizing this fantastic event and congratulations to everyone who contributed to its huge success!

Mystery Object for this issue…

Can you guess the cultural significance of this item? Find the answer at the end of the newsletter!
Chinese Film Festival and Fashion Show

The 2018 Chinese Film Festival, with screenings in fall and spring, provided reflections of modern and contemporary Chinese society. The festival's themes were kung fu and heroism, which led us through an exploration of Chinese kung fu novels and film where the marvelous, exquisite, and beautiful world of Chinese martial arts are blended with myth, magic, mystery, and romance comes to life.

The main festival presented the selected films that are critically acclaimed winners of national and international film festivals. The program included films, guest lectures and film reflection writing.

The Chinese Culture and Language Association’s first fashion show was designed to share Chinese culture by displaying costumes modeled after historical Chinese clothing from the Shang, Han and Tang dynasties as well as traditional clothing from other East Asian countries and communities such as Japan, Korea, and people of Hmong descent. The fashion show was divided into two parts: the first part showed the historical clothing; the second part displayed the more commonly known Qipao. In total, the show featured over 49 outfits and styles. The Taipei Economic Cultural Office, TECO, lent us some of the most beautiful outfits which traveled all the way from Atlanta, GA so they could be enjoyed by our campus and community.

German Day 2018--Lass uns reden--Let's Talk!

The German Program, with the support of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, hosted the 18th annual German Day on Wednesday, March 14, 2018. Over 450 German students from 15 schools in North Carolina participated in the many fun competitions and events. The students and faculty of UNCG organized the all-day event that also included campus tours, chat sessions, and a Jeopardy game. The Awards Ceremony convinced us that talking, communicating in German or in English, and most importantly, engaging with each other are the best practices to strengthen the transatlantic friendship between the United States and Germany. Support provided by UNCG’s Kohler Fund and the North Carolina chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German allowed us to host a luncheon for teachers, judges, and chaperones who volunteered their time in order to make this event possible. Dr. Penelope Pynes, Associate Provost for International Programs, and Dr. Amy Williamsen, Head of LLC, greeted our guests and highlighted initiatives that contribute to UNCG’s global orientation.

Many thanks to colleagues and friends from across campus and the Triad who served as judges for the competitions including: Frances Bottenberg (UNCG), Benjamin Davis (UNCG), Scott Denham (Davidson College), Carola Dwyer (UNCG), Astrid End, Alyssa Howards (Wake Forest University) Corey Johnson (UNCG), Molly Knight (Wake Forest University), Brooke Kreitinger (UNCG), Dave Limburg (Guilford College), Elisabeth Plattner, Carolin Roberts, Olav Rueppel (UNCG), Brooke Shafar (UNCG), Tom Skinner, Ulrike Zimmermann, and Matthias Zimmermann.
FOCUS ON STUDENT AND FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

Roberto Campo, Veronica Grossi and Susanne Rinner held student panels at the Honors Symposium. Student presenters included Bettina Acosta (“Holocaust Survivors Interaction with the Past and the Reconciliation Process”), Sarah Kassem (“The Impact of the Holocaust on German Identity”), and Chapin Silberquit (“Exploring Distant Planets: The Reunification of Germany and the Metaphor of Space in Good Bye, Lenin!”).

The 2018 Tournées French and Francophone Film Festival was a great success. Our publicity efforts were effective, reaching not only UNCG students and professors from a variety of departments and programs, but also area students, their teachers, and members of our local African immigrant population groups. Félicitations!

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures hosted our first LLC Homecoming reception. Many of our former students were present and shared compelling stories of their professional success.

Many LLC faculty and staff participated both in-person and online in Believe in the G, a 48-hour giving challenge and celebration of school spirit. Fellow alumni hosted events from coast to coast.

LLC Graduate Students and faculty were engaged in a cultural expo sponsored by LLC, Alianza and Lambda Thetha Phi. This event also gave everyone the opportunity to make donations in support of LLC’s Puerto Rico Relief Effort and receive the internationally acclaimed LLC Cookbook.

STUDENT & ALUMNI EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Devonnah Hobson and Sebastian Vega for their excellent presentations of original analyses of the poetry of Sor Juana and Louise Labé, and Bartolomé de las Casas respectively at the recent Honors Symposium at UNCG.

LLC alumni Walter Gay and William Zang are both doing exceedingly well at UNC in the MA program. Walter is just back from a summer in Italy doing archival research and has focused his research on a group of Russian expats living in Italy in the time surrounding the Russian Revolution. William is focusing on a Slavic group working in South America!

Congratulations to graduate student Thomas Alexander, winner of the first prize for his poem "Látigos de cemento” in the second annual Ramiro Lagos Poetry Prize!

Alumni Valentyna Filimonova is completing her PhD in Linguistics, and has created a course that revolves around solving a mystery. It took the whole semester to solve the mystery and everyone at Indiana University thought it was brilliant!

Our incoming MA Student, Gretel Acosta, has been selected to receive a UNCG Inclusiveness Award for the 2018-2019 academic year.

JNS students Jessica Golden and Morgan Overcash competed at the Duke University Japanese Speech Contest and they both did well! Jessica won 3rd place in the Level I category, and Morgan won 3rd place in the Level II category.

Cailín O’Kelley has secured a French teaching position at Terry Sanford High School in Fayetteville, NC and created a French Club for the school.
**FOCUS ON LLC FACULTY**

**Claudia Cabello Hutt** is in the headlines...UNCG Research magazine featured her accomplishments in “No woman is an island”—https://researchmagazine.uncg.edu/. During a recent book launch students, colleagues, and community members also celebrated the publication of her first book, *Artesana de sí misma: Gabriela Mistral, una intelectual en cuerpo y palabra* by Purdue University Press. The afternoon continued with a stimulating colloquium on Latin American Women Writers.

**Karen DeNaples** received the George W. Veditz ASL Leadership Award, which is named for an ASL pioneer best remembered for his advocacy of Deaf rights, his strong opposition to oralism, which was at the peak of its power in the early 20th century, and his eloquent defense of sign language as “the noblest gift God has given to deaf people.” He also spearheaded a project to record sign language on film, providing a precious legacy of early-20th-century ASL in action. This award is given in recognition of an NC ASLTA member’s significant contribution to the field of ASL teaching.

**Lisa Janvari** does the impossible on a daily basis in support of LLC. As a result, she was a unanimous choice for the CAS Staff Excellence Award. Congratulations, Lisa!

**Brooke Kreitinger**, who consistently goes above and beyond in support of our students, has received the CASA Excellence in Advising Award. She will be honored at the Dean's End of Year Celebration on April 30th.

**Ignacio López**’s edition of *Las amazonas de España y La hazaña mayor de Alcides* received both the the Mark Smith Soto award from LLC and a publication subsidy grant from ORED in support of its publication.

**Kelly Pereira** co-organized UNCG’s 1st Diversity in Language & Culture Conference in September 2017, which featured keynote speakers Dr. Paris, Dr. Goffney and Dr. Leeman, who spoke to engaging diverse learners through critical pedagogies and key goals for language education. Many thanks to all participants, especially our LLC graduate student volunteers, who helped make the conference a huge success!

**Carmen Sotomayor** has been elected president of the Asociación Hispánica de Humanidades. She is currently organizing the IX International Congress in Cáceres, Spain in conjunction with the University of Extremadura.

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**In Loving Memory of Cory Moses**

Cory Moses, known for his smile and his gentle spirit, passed away unexpectedly this Fall. All who knew him mourn his loss. Students and faculty were touched by his love of many languages and his commitment to his community. In his honor, we will be establishing the Cory Moses Fellowship to support students in our new concentration Global Languages and Communities. If you are interested in contributing to this worthy cause, please contact Lisa Janvari at lajanvar@uncg.edu

**Mystery Object Revealed...**Pilons (made of wood called *Guayacán*) are used in Caribbean kitchens to mash spices and foods, and are part of African cultural traditions.

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