



CONCORDIA

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

Study abroad with LLC



You can read about new cultures for hours on end. You can study conjugation charts, memorize new vocabulary, and practice with textbook activities and smartphone apps.

But the best way to learn a new language and culture is to step outside of the classroom and live it.

The Dept. of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC) has a longtime tradition of providing study abroad opportunities for students. In addition to the variety of programs offered through the UNCG International Programs Center, LLC offers two,

faculty-led study abroad programs for students in the summer.

The UNCG Summer in Spain Program dates back to the 1970s, making it one of the University's longest-running programs. This year, the program will take students to the ancient port city of Cádiz in the south of Spain for a transformative linguistic and cultural immersion experience.

LLC's newest program is a four-week, community engagement and Spanish immersion experience in Costa Rica. In addition to language courses, students embody the University's motto of "Service" by participating in several service-learning projects in different communities.

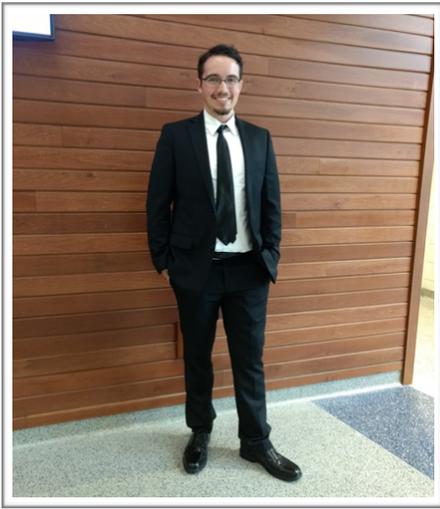
Both programs have found the right balance of structured programming and free time, allowing students to engage with locals in an authentic way and put to practice what they learn in the classroom.

Ultimately, students return home not only with increased cultural competence and linguistic ability, but with a new sense of self.

"I'm open to more experiences and getting out of my comfort zone because of this program," said junior Marykent Wolff, who studied abroad in Spain this past summer. "Before, I didn't think about Spanish as something I could use in a career. Now I see that regardless of the field, Spanish will be beneficial."



Student Profile: Logan Varker (Arabic)



Logan Varker is a junior double majoring in Spanish and international and global studies.

What are some of the biggest challenges of learning Arabic?

The biggest challenge is definitely retaining the vocabulary, especially since we

have to learn different dialects at the same time. I have chosen to focus on Egyptian because it's the most similar to formal Arabic (Fusha).

How do you use Arabic outside of the classroom?

I am taking a separate class on Islam, which complements the language class. I try to utilize my Arabic skills while reading names, and then I'll try to translate them in class. Sometimes I'm successful, and sometimes I'm way off base!

Would you recommend learning Arabic to your peers?

It's definitely a commitment, and you need to have an end goal. It's good for students who want to break themselves out of their cognitive framework and challenge themselves intellectually.

A Fairy Tale Read-A-Thon

By Emma Levrio

The Humanities Network and Consortium joined together with UNCG's Islamic Studies Research Network and the Muslim Student Association on Nov. 2 to present an exquisite selection of Arabic and Persian fairytales. This presentation was complemented by the Weatherspoon Art Museum exhibition currently on display, "Dread & Delight: Fairy Tales in an Anxious World." Guests were able to sit in on epic tales told by both Professor Malika Akarramou's Arabic courses as well as Dr. Alyssa Gabbay's religion courses. This event was also held at Scuppernong Books in downtown Greensboro.



Student Profile: Brooke Rockot (ASL)



Brooke Rockot is a senior majoring in speech language pathology with a minor in ASL/Deaf Studies. She is from San Diego, California, and plans to go to graduate school to research how speech language pathologists can better serve the Deaf Community.

Why did you choose to study ASL?

When I was in 5th grade, I learned the ASL alphabet,

which sparked my interest in the language, but I was never able to get involved in learning ASL until I came to UNCG.

How do you want to use your knowledge of ASL in the future?

In my career field, Deafness is seen from a medical viewpoint and not a cultural one. I would like to change this view, so that families with deaf children or people who become deaf can realize the beauty of Deaf Culture and be better informed about their options.

What's your favorite thing about ASL?

I love how expressive it is. You really have to use your facial expressions, and that makes it fun. The same sign can mean something different based on your expression.

ASL & Deaf Bowling

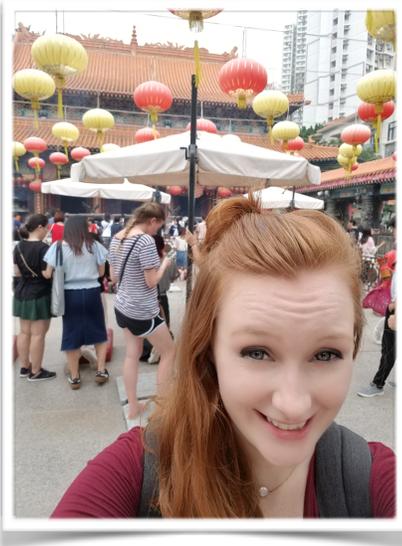
By Ramy Sugg

Every Tuesday starting at 8 p.m., a mixture of ASL students and local Deaf Community members get together at AMF All Star Lanes on South Holden Road to try their hand at winning a bowling match or two. Even if you are in the first level of ASL, you will make friends from your class or with members of the Greensboro Deaf Community, starting with a signed "Hello."

You can find more information on upcoming ASL Nights Out, Silent Dinners, ASL Movie and Coffee Nights, and other ASL-related social events through the Deaf-Hearing College Connection (DHCC) Facebook page.



Student Profile: Shannon Witt (Chinese)



Shannon Witt is a senior who will graduate in the spring with a degree in languages, literatures, and cultures with a concentration in global languages and minors in business and Chinese. She studied abroad in Hong Kong in August 2018.

What sparked your interest in Chinese?

I first became interested in languages at a young age, but I never felt interested enough in the languages offered by my middle school. I finally found my passion when my high school first offered Chinese. Once in college, I also studied Russian and German, but Chinese has remained the most interesting and engaging language I have studied.

Tell me more about your time abroad.

During the month of August, I had the amazing opportunity to participate in a three-week language-intensive Mandarin program at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. I attended six hours of class Monday-Friday and explored the city on weekends and free nights. The best part of the experience was meeting people from all different cultures and enjoying the culture of Hong Kong with local friends I met when they were exchange students at UNCG.

What's your advice to future UNCG language learners?

Find a friend to practice with, and challenge each other to use as little English as possible. This strategy helps you figure out vocabulary words you may not learn otherwise in a school setting. Also, try to make friends with an exchange student or someone who speaks the language.

Asian Autumn Festival

By Fiona Grant



This fall, UNCG hosted its annual Asian Autumn Festival on Sept. 29. The Chinese Program had several tables set up to share Chinese culture with students, faculty, and guests. People could enjoy things such as learning calligraphy, taking photos in traditional Chinese clothing, playing traditional Chinese games, making mooncakes out of clay, and enjoying Chinese snacks and tea. The Chinese Program was also responsible for several performances throughout the day. Those who came to the festival were able to see many aspects of not only Chinese culture, but also other Asian cultures such as Japanese and Korean cultures. Overall, it was a very informative and fun event that showcased Chinese culture in exciting and creative ways.

Student Profile: Alexandra Ayala (French)



Alexandra Ayala is majoring in French and consumer, apparel, and retail studies, with minors in Spanish and German. She studied abroad in Rennes, France, and Cáceres, Spain.

What sparked your interest in French/other languages?

I've always been interested in travel and I wanted to be able to

communicate with people on a larger scale. I began learning Spanish and French in high school, and started my German studies my junior year of college.

What was your favorite food abroad?

In France, my favorite was the galettes. Spain had amazing paella.

Why did you decide to study abroad in France and Spain?

I wanted to improve my language skills in both of my target languages. Eventually, I'd like to live in Europe. The more exposure I can have in those cultures, the more easily I can integrate later on when I move.

What's your advice for future language learners?

Study abroad in a country where your target language is spoken, and go abroad for the full year. Don't live with other Americans – live with people from different cultures, and put yourself in situations where you're forced out of your comfort zone. I would recommend going to a smaller city where English isn't spoken as much to really improve your target language.

Crepe Night

By Tara Redpath

The French Club kicked off the year with its most popular event: Crepe Night! With the opportunity to practice speaking French, the attendees were able to learn more about French culture while enjoying a classic treat. Students swapped stories from studying abroad or the struggles of a French class, and were able to learn the process of making a perfect crepe.



Student Profile: Clayton Petty (German)



Clayton Petty is a senior majoring in German and music studies.

When and why did you start learning German?

When I was younger, my family hosted a German exchange student, and in high school one of my best friends was from Germany. I became interested in the language and culture, and quickly fell in love with it.

What's your favorite part of current German culture?

The political culture is interesting to navigate, as well as the idea of regional versus national identity – the dialects alone!

What's your favorite time period to learn about?

I think the most interesting time period for me is probably the 20th century, which serves as a reminder for us not to fall into the cyclic tendencies of the past and instead grow from these hardships.

How do you want to use German in your career?

I definitely see myself working in international affairs, allowing for the chance to work with various forms of government. At the moment, I am applying to graduate schools in order to achieve this goal.

Oktoberfest

By Tennah Murphy

This fall, UNCG hosted its annual Oktoberfest celebration. The event provides the opportunity to catch up with old friends, eat great food, and get advice from the professors in attendance. The food this year was phenomenal. We ate authentic food served in Germany – it's not Oktoberfest without wurst! The event served as a great way to showcase the sense of community we have in the German Program.



Student Profile: Bradley Ross (Japanese)



Bradley Ross is a senior majoring in international and global studies. He is an active member of J-Club and is currently taking JNS 301.

Why did you choose to study Japanese?

When I was a kid, I noticed many of the games I enjoyed playing were from Japan. In high school, I learned about Japanese history, and from there I fell in love with the culture.

The hybridization between

traditional Japanese culture and the influences of Westernization have always been fascinating to me. Simply put, I love Japan.

What was your favorite thing about traveling to Japan?

Prior to going to Japan, I had a pen pal who lived in Akita. After having known her for over two years, we finally met in person. It was definitely my favorite moment. Joining an archery club was a close second!

What advice would you give to someone wanting to learn Japanese?

Take it slow and be sure to find alternative outlets to practice what you have learned. If you don't, you will forget the material. I recommend partaking in Japanese media (anime, video games, music, etc.), speaking with native Japanese people (get a pen pal), and using phone apps to study the thousands of Kanji (it's convenient).

How do you plan to use Japanese in the future?

Teaching or translating. I very much enjoy teaching people who need help, and kids can be a joy so becoming a language teacher sounds fun. On the other hand, becoming a translator has so many possible career paths.

J-Club

UNCG's J-Club meets every Monday and Wednesday. J-Club provides a friendly environment where students are able to discuss their interests in Japanese culture, learn something new, and make friends. They do a variety of activities involving Japanese culture, such as presentations and anime screenings. The J-Club and many of its members were in attendance at the Asian Autumn Festival this year. They had their own booth dedicated to the club, and several members contributed to great performances such as poetry readings, singing, and dancing to Japanese music. You can find out more about J-Club's meetings on its Facebook page (search UNCG Japanese Club).

By Hailey Gunter



Student Profile: William Dry (Russian)



William Dry is a senior majoring in accounting and finance, with a minor in Russian. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, hiking, and spending time with his family.

If you moved to Russia, where would you like to live?

I would live in St. Petersburg. There are many job opportunities there, and it seems like an easier place for a westerner to live due to so many different people of different cultures living there.

What is your favorite Russian word and why?

Богатый (rich). I love how the root of the word (Бог) means God. It is profound.

What have you enjoyed most about learning Russian?

I have enjoyed learning from Professor Yekaterina Colon. I liked that she was a native speaker, and I learned not just the language, but also cultural references and perspectives from someone who lived through the times of the Soviet Union and after the fall of the Soviet Union. I also enjoyed learning the alphabet. I learned to write and memorized the sounds of the letters very quickly.

LLC Culture Jam

By Mila Yanez

On Oct. 22, a group of students from Russian 314 participated in the LLC Culture Jam. They performed a Russian song that is usually sang on birthdays in Russia. The song is called, "Пусть Бегут Неуклюже Пешеходы По Лужам" ("Let Pedestrians Run Clumsily Over Puddles," but usually called "Gena's Birthday Song"). A couple of students had a short solo, and one student played the accordion throughout the entire song. Professor Kathleen MacFie was happy with the way her students performed the song and was pleased with the amount of practice they put into it.



Student Profile: Hannah Astin (Spanish)



Hannah Astin is a junior with a double major in political science (pre-law) and Spanish. She studied abroad in Madrid, Spain, with UNCG's Summer in Spain program. Hannah is also involved with Camp Kesem's UNCG chapter as a volunteer camp counselor.

What has been your favorite Spanish class?

My favorite class was one I took abroad, which was an overview of the history of Spain. As a student in the United States, you spend so much time on U.S. history and not as much on world history in general. It was really eye-opening to be standing in Madrid learning about Spain and how everything got there.

What are your future goals?

I have a couple of options now that I can pursue; one option I'm definitely considering is going into immigration law to

help people in any way I can. Another option is taking a gap year before law school to teach English to kids in a Spanish-speaking country.

What advice would you give to students who are unsure about studying abroad?

Just do it. The first 24-48 hours are difficult, but once you get over the hump and get used to the fact that you're in another country, then you'll be fine. I am definitely a better Spanish speaker from my short time in Spain because I was immersed in it and had to use it on a daily basis.

Café Olé: Día de los Muertos

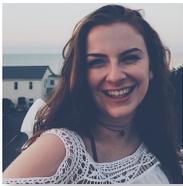
By Sebastian Vega



Café Olé is a weekly presentation for students about the traditions and customs of Spanish-speaking countries. The week of Halloween, Professor D'Empaire-Wilbert presented the Mexican tradition of Día de los Muertos, a holiday that celebrates lost loved ones. The presentation consisted of a breakdown of the religious traditions, the origins of the celebration, and the impact of religious syncretism (mutual influence of different religions on each other). After the presentation, the students took part in a discussion about their perspective on the holiday and how it differs from our own holiday of Halloween.



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