



# ACCENT!

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

## Poetry Flow: A Celebration of Words

Students, faculty, and guests gathered on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Elliott University Center for the LLC Poetry Jam.

The event took place in three simultaneous venues and offered students many different opportunities for participation. Students showcased their work in a poster presentation and also had the chance to take part in



workshops that focused on language-specific activities related to poetry. There was also an open mic session for students and faculty who wanted to recite their favorite poems in their chosen language. Poetry was embedded into LLC courses throughout the semester, and the Poetry Jam served as a culmination of the work undertaken in language classes. Students enrolled in language courses had the opportunity to participate according to their

proficiency level and personal preference, but the event also offered a glimpse into different languages and cultures for all students across the university.

Commensurate with the mission of LLC, the Poetry Jam highlighted LLC's diversity, as well as a common love and respect for languages and cultures, and a desire to perpetuate an appreciation for cultural diversity and language through forms of creative expression. Students were able to gain exposure to all of the

languages studied in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, including ASL, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Korean, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish.



### Mystery Object for this issue...

Can you guess the cultural significance of this item? Find the answer at the end of the newsletter!



## LLC Undergraduate Student Research Expo

UNCG’s first Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Undergraduate Research Expo was held on Monday, November 25, 2019.

Funded by the Mellon Fund’s Transforming Humanities project, the expo brought together students in four LLC courses – Global Crossings: Images, Media, and Texts (**Nodia Mena**); Immigration Stories (**Dr. Kathleen Macfie**); Globalization and Diversity: Cultural

Expressions (**Dr. Alejandro Hortal**); and The Best of German Literature (**Dr. Brooke Kreitinger**) – to share papers, posters, and videos on topics ranging from human trafficking, child labor, workplace discrimination, and accessibility in education. As they prepared for the expo, students learned how to employ academic research as a tool to create practical solutions to complex contemporary problems.



### FOCUS ON STUDENT AND FACULTY ENGAGEMENT



**Dr. Ana Hontanilla** organized the roundtable “Opening Dialogue. The Afro-Latin American/Latinx Studies Project at UNCG and the North Carolina Consortium” at the Conference on African-American and African Diasporic Cultures and Experience (CACE), that officially launched the Afro-Latin American/Latinx Studies Project at UNCG and the North Carolina Consortium. Hontanilla and **Nodia Mena** were among the participants in the round table. Ximena Ximenez organized two panels in which students of her class SPA 454 presented their research.

Organized by **Dr. Meiqing Sun**, the Chinese Music Concert was held on Saturday, October 5th 2019. The Crescent Chinese Music Studio performed traditional and modern music that enhanced the understanding of Chinese culture for UNCG students learning Mandarin and those pursuing the Asian Studies major in IGS. In Spring 2020, students had another chance to broaden their awareness of Chinese culture through the Chinese Spring Festival, which featured music, shows, presentations, refreshments, raffles, crafts, games, calligraphy and more.

The German Program initiated four students into UNCG’s chapter of Delta Phi Alpha, the National German Honorary Society in Spring 2020, and also hosted a series of events throughout the Fall semester as part of

German Campus Weeks 2019: “Wunderbar Together” to investigate the historical and contemporary significance of the transatlantic partnership between Germany and the U.S. Students also had the chance to learn about German Bavarian festival traditions and to taste some delicious German food at the 7th annual Oktoberfest organized by **Dr. Carola Dwyer** and **Christina Gray**.





February, which were followed by faculty-led discussions of each film.

With help from faculty members (**Nodia Mena**, **Dr. Matthew Sutton**, **Dr. David Aarons**, **Christina Gray**) **Lizely Lopez** organized a fantastic celebration of holiday traditions around the world for the Global Village Christmas Around the World event, including performances by students (Ritmo Latino and others) and faculty members, as well as poster presentations prepared by the Global Village students.

With the support of **Dr. Catherine Viano**, the student-led French club celebrated Mardi Gras with king cake, mask decorating, and Cajun dancing! UNCG Biology Professor **Robert Stavn** taught the student participants Cajun dances to Mardi Gras and Louisiana music.

The 2020 Tournées French and Francophone Film Festival, led by the efforts of **Dr. Roberto Campo**, had another successful run. Students, faculty, and members of the greater community gathered for weekly film viewings throughout the month of



## STUDENT & ALUMNI EXCELLENCE



**Quinn Tjin-A-Soe** won the second place in the novice proficiency level section at the 11th Annual North Carolina Chinese Speech Contest held at UNC Charlotte in March 2020. Third-year Chinese student **Essence Pauling** won third place in the advanced proficiency level section.

**Julia Whalen** (FRE) is the recipient of a Student Excellence Award and has been awarded a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship that covers her tuition at New York University's Masters of Social Work program.

**Brenna Koss** (FRE) has earned a Student Excellence Award and applied to the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF).

**Alex Romero** (FRE, class of 2019) worked this past year as an English language instructor in Poitiers, France through the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF). She will pursue a Master's degree in

International Development at the University of Denver in Fall 2020.

**Matthew Hellenbrand** (GER) and NC A&T Greater Greensboro Consortium student **Allison Gilmore** have both been selected for the Austria Fulbright USTA program. Matthew will spend one year teaching English in Kärnten and plans to apply for a Master's program at the University of Klagenfurt, and Allison will spend a year in Linz, where she will teach English, take courses at a local university, and volunteer for a non-profit.

**Suzy Allen** won 3rd place in the Level II category at the the 33rd Duke Japanese Speech Contest with a speech entitled, "My Big Dream."

Four LLC students (**Hannah Astin** (SPA), **Jacob Hauk** (SPA), **Tannah Murphy** (GER), **Julia Whalen** (FRE) were elected into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most respected honor society for the Liberal Arts and Sciences.



## FOCUS ON LLC FACULTY



**Dr. Carmen Sotomayor** (Professor of Spanish, featured below) received the prestigious North Carolina Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award comes with a \$12,500 stipend and a commemorative bronze medallion. In the words of Provost Dana Dunn, Dr. Sotomayor is “a consummate teacher-scholar” who is recognized for her “hard work in the classroom, in the community and throughout our campus” as well as her “high-level research.” During the Spring 2020 semester, Dr. Sotomayor also presented a paper at the XXV Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica in Lima, Perú entitled, “El caso de Juan Urbano: la reescritura y la revisión histórica a través de la novela negra.”

**Dr. Cybelle H. McFadden** (Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies) presented her paper, “Overseas Lands, Cultural Citizenship, and National Belonging in Contemporary French Cinema,” online for the 20th/21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium in April 2020.

**Dr. Benjamin Davis** (Visiting Assistant Professor of German) presented a paper entitled “The Queer Art of Failure?: Magic, Mishap, and (Productive) Non-Normativity in Melusine (1487) and Fortunatus (1509)” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in St. Louis, MO on October 19, 2019.

**Dr. Meiqing Sun** (Senior Lecturer of Chinese Studies, featured on right) has been selected from among ten nominees to receive UNCG's 2019-20 Anna Maria Gove Award for Teaching Excellence.



**Dr. Jocelyn Aksin** (Lecturer of German) published an article entitled “Archival Traces in Works by Emine Sevgi Özdamar: Newspapers in “Bitteres Wasser” and Die Brücke vom Goldenen Horn” in the international peer reviewed journal *Gegenwartsliteratur: Ein germanistisches Jahrbuch* (2019) and presented papers at the 43rd German Studies Association Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon (2019) and the American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois (2020).

**Peter Dola** (Senior Lecturer of French) was recognized as one of the “Top Ten Best Sessions” at the 2019 FLANC Conference.

**Dr. Ana Hontanilla Calatayud** (Associate Professor of Spanish) published three short stories in prestigious literary journals (“El plato sucio” in *Baquiana* (2020); “Espejismos” in *Latin American Literary Review* (2019); and “La fuerza de la sangre” at [seattlescribe.org](http://seattlescribe.org)).

**Mystery Object Revealed...Chinese ink brush (毛笔) used by the Wanli Emperor (1563-1620)**



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