



ACCENT!

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

Hispanic Heritage Month

Over the course of five weeks in September and October 2020, UNCG students, faculty, and community members enjoyed numerous opportunities to participate in a series of creative and interactive events for Hispanic Heritage Month. Activities included a Zumba class, a poetry reading facilitated and organized by Dr. **Veronica Grossi**, interactive workshops, an alumnae panel, a meet-and-greet night sponsored by Alianza and hosted by **Estella Ratliff**, and invited lectures. Dr. **Carmen Sotomayor** and **Lizely Lopez** organized an interactive workshop entitled, “Esto no es One Way: Cultural Encounters and Reggaeton,” which explored code-switching, Spanglish, and other fascinating language exchanges among contemporary Latinx artists. The presentation provided an opportunity to talk about the presence of Spanish and Spanglish in contemporary

cultural production within the context of US artists and their exchanges with Latinx artists. The interactive workshop concluded with a group activity in which participants created and shared their own lyrics. Another panel organized by Dr. **Claudia Cabello-Hutt** focused on Latinx Feminisms, and Spanish heritage learners from Dr. **Kelly Lowther-Pereira**’s SPA 302 and SPA 310 courses shared information about their linguistic and cultural roots. Some students gave presentations about the Spanish-speaking countries of their family’s origin and shared linguistic and cultural traditions of those countries, while others presented original poems written in Spanish, English, or a combination of the two as they creatively explored possibilities for expression made possible by code-switching between both languages.

Virtual Spring Chinese Festival

The 2021 Virtual Chinese Spring Festival celebrations took place between February 12 – 25, 2021. Events included a Tai Chi Workshop with Tai Chi Master Violet Anderson and 2019 North Carolina Chinese Language Teacher of the Year Bonnie Chunmeng Wang, and a workshop on Chinese Paper Arts featuring Xinru Yan, Alisa Li, and Dr. **Meiqing Sun**, who discussed the history of Chinese



lanterns and traditional Chinese paper cutting. Participants also enjoyed the opportunity to make their own lanterns!

Finally, a group of student competitors in the Chinese Cooking Contest and Showcase demonstrated their cooking skills by preparing and showcasing their favorite Chinese dishes. Nine finalists received awards based on audience attention and comments received.



Greensboro Japanese Speech Contest

Organized by Dr. **Yosei Sugawara**, the Greensboro Japanese Speech Contest (GJSC) takes place each spring on the UNCG campus. All Japanese language programs in the area are invited to participate. Since the inaugural contest in 2016, students and faculty from Wake Forest University, Guilford College, High Point University and High Point Central High School have taken part. Supported by UNCG's Kohler Foundation, the Japan Foundation of Los Angeles, the Japan America Society of North Carolina, the Consulate-General of Japan, and members of the business community, the GJSP offers students the opportunity to deliver original



Japanese language presentations in front of judges and a supportive audience of families, friends, faculty, and classmates. UNCG students Chloé Neunsinger (*left*) and Sam Sherwood (*right*) won first place in the advanced and intermediate categories, respectively. Based on their strong performances, both students were awarded a place in the prestigious Kakehashi Project. Funded by the Japanese government, the Kakehashi Project offers the opportunity to participate in a virtual exchange program over the summer, and will provide an all-expense-paid, ten-day guided tour of Japan during the winter break.




German Campus Weeks: "Building Tomorrow"

Thanks to a grant from the German Embassy in Washington, D. C., the UNCG German Program organized and hosted a virtual series of events around the theme, "Building Tomorrow." With a general focus on minority communities in Germany, events included a presentation by Christina Gray on the refugee community in Austria, a film screening of Dagmar Schultz' *Audre Lorde – The Berlin Years 1984 to 1992* with a


**The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Campus Weeks 2020**

**Guest Lecture by Dr. Tiffany Florvil,
Associate Professor of History, U New Mexico**

"May Ayim – A Black Internationalist"



Dr. Tiffany Florvil is author of *Mobilizing Black Germany: Afro-German Women and the Making of a Transnational Movement* (forthcoming with University of Illinois Press) and coeditor of *Rethinking Black German Studies: Approaches, Interventions, and Histories*.



Left: May Ayim performing a reading of her work, where it first appeared after her. Photo: GTPA, Berlin, CC BY-SA, U.S. via Wikimedia Commons.

Afro-German writer and activist May Ayim pursued political activism across the globe. Influenced by Audre Lorde, Ayim, along with others, ushered in the modern Black German movement of the 1980s and 1990s in Germany. Traversing borders, Ayim forged kinships with individuals across the diaspora. People of Color, and white allies. These transnational exchanges helped her achieve recognition as one of the most promising Afro-German activist-intellectuals and performers of her generation.

discussion led by Dr. Tiffany Florvil (University of New Mexico), and a lecture by Dr. Florvil on Black-German poet, writer, and activist May Ayim entitled, "May Ayim - A Black Internationalist." This series of virtual events were well attended, with Dr. Florvil's lecture garnering 204 participants, including students, faculty, and alumni from UNCG as well as from a neighboring institution, North Carolina State University.



Greetings From the Department Head

As we start off the 2021-22 academic year, it is fitting to take a few minutes to reflect on our many accomplishments during the past year. These achievements are especially impressive given the extraordinary challenges that we faced over the past twelve months—from a global pandemic that required us to learn, teach, and interact in entirely new and sometimes trying ways, to another year of painful university budget reductions (largely related to the pandemic) that compromised the department’s ability to support our students and faculty as generously as they deserve.

Nevertheless, as you can see from the articles in our Spring 2021 edition of LLC’s Accent newsletter, we remained fully engaged in our commitment to the department’s three-dimensional mission. Through engaged teaching, innovative research, diverse creative activity, and dedicated service, LLC strives to:

- communicate an understanding of languages, literatures, and cultures within the context of a humanistic liberal education;

- connect with individuals and communities within the department, across the campus, the state, the nation, and the world in order to foster a culture of meaningful intellectual inquiry, participatory and life-long learning that promotes respect for all;
- contribute to the University's strategic goal of internationalizing the campus as we prepare our students to excel in a variety of professions and graduate studies.

As you peruse the stories in this newsletter, please join me in congratulating and thanking everyone for their outstanding work—including our Accent’s editorial team, Jocelyn Aksin (GER) and Josh Lunsford (FRE), whose labors made this publication possible. Let us also celebrate these wonderful examples and allow them to inspire us throughout the year that lies ahead.



Roberto E. Campo
Professor of French; Head,
Department of Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures



FOCUS ON STUDENT AND FACULTY ENGAGEMENT



The student led French club, the UNCG Francophiles, led by faculty mentor Dr. **Catherine Viano-Laughon**, hosted two outdoor events at the fountain behind the EUC: Un Après-midi de poésie entailed poetry readings and discussion, with participants bringing their favorite poems to share, and Poisson d’avril involved a celebration of the French tradition of decorating paper fish and placing them on the backs of friends and family on April Fool’s day.

Nodia Mena, Dr. **Ana Hontanilla**, and graduate students **Celia Gonzalez Buisan** and **Maria Menendez** gave presentations at the annual Conference on African American and African Diasporic Culture and Experiences (CACE) on February 24-25, 2021. Dr.

Hontanilla also organized “Spanish Media and Cultural Change” featuring Spanish writer Lucía-Asué Mbomío and Assistant Professor Michelle Murray from Vanderbilt University. This event was part of the “Conversation with the Community” series sponsored by AADS, LLC and IGS.

UNCG’s 2021 Honors Undergraduate Research Symposium featured the creative work of four students in advanced German courses: Dae TerBush, Garrett Fields, Liam Trawick, and Tennah Murphy. Over 40 participants attended the Zoom session, “Identity, Belonging, and Multimedia Projects in German Studies,” on March 12, 2021, that was co-organized and moderated by Dr. **Faye Stewart** and Dr. **Jocelyn Aksin**.



STUDENT & ALUMNI EXCELLENCE



Tannah C. Murphy (class of 2020 double major in Studio Art and LLC with a concentration in German Studies), has been awarded the Provost Student Excellence Award. This award is UNCG's most prestigious academic honor, and is conferred annually upon students who exhibit creativity, initiative, and perseverance in academics, service, and leadership.

International and Global Studies major/Spanish minor **Logan Varker** (featured right) is a semi-finalist for the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Program. Logan applied for the Fulbright in order to "experience teaching at a university level, to spend more time in Spain, and to work with international students." He describes the rigorous Fulbright application process as "a great exercise in personal reflection, authoring your personal narrative, and representing yourself," noting that the "process is also empowering because you get to consciously write your own story, which lends insight about who you are." Logan was mentored throughout his application process by **Sarah Carrig** and also credits the UNCG International Programs Center for their assistance.

Sandra Candelario, BA in LLC, French and Francophone Studies and Global Languages and Communities, alumna ('20) will start a Masters in Social



Work Program at UNC Chapel Hill in August. She looks forward to making a positive impact in both French-speaking and Hispanic communities in the future.

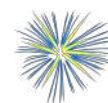
Dr. **Suja Sawafta**, BA in IGS and French alumna ('10) and former Lecturer in Arabic, successfully defended

her dissertation on Abdulrahman Munif to earn her PhD (DPhil) from Oxford University. She is Assistant Professor of Arabic Studies at Miami University. In April 2021, she gave a talk, "Woman at Point Zero: Nawal El Saadawi's Feminist Legacy" for the Gender and Sexuality Studies program at Miami University.

The German Program welcomed German students **Nicollette Boykins, Ellis Hiser, Caraline Malloy, Avery McGinn, Eva Moniz, Gavin Parker, Dae TerBush, and Marlas Whitely** into UNCG's chapter of Delta Phi Alpha, the National German Honorary Society. The induction ceremony, coordinated by chapter advisor, Dr. **Ben Davis**, was followed by a lively game of Germany-themed trivia organized by Dr. **Carola Dwyer** and the German Club.



FOCUS ON LLC FACULTY



Two short stories by Dr. **Ana Hontanilla** were published in Fall 2020 in *Ambitos Feministas* and the other in *Chiricú Journal: Latino/a Literatures, Arts, and Cultures*. The English translation of another story previously published in Spanish came out in the Spring 2021 in *Switchgrass Review Journal*. The editor of *Switchgrass Review* invited Dr. Hontanilla to discuss her creative writing at the Texas A&M University in Corpus Cristi as a part of TexasA&M's Women's History Month. Dr. **Hontanilla** also serves as editor of UNCG's *International Poetry Review*, which published its 43rd volume in Fall 2020 after a three-year hiatus.

Dr. **Benjamin Davis** presented an invited lecture: "Rethinking "gute Ordnung": Queer Transgressions in

Early Modern German Prosaromanen" on November 2, 2020 as part of the Fruchtbringende Gesellschaft lecture series of the German Department at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

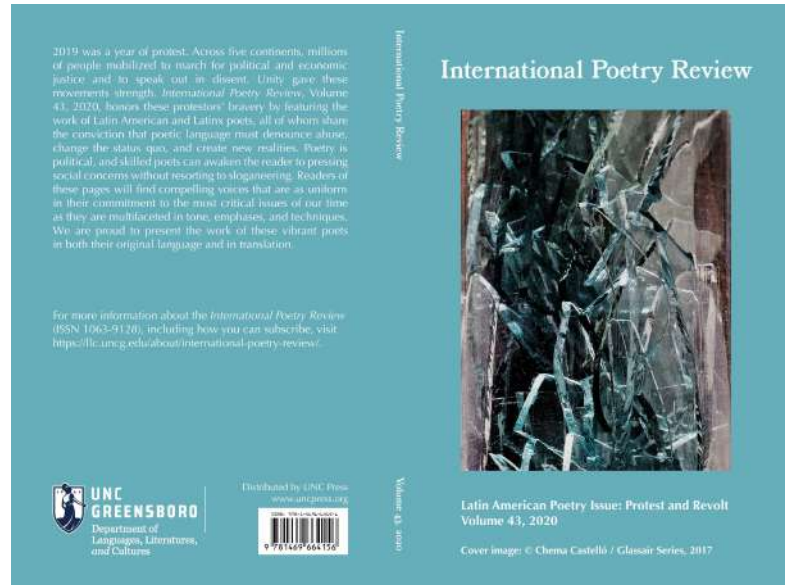
As part of Campus Weeks programming at Sewanee: The University of the South, Dr. **Faye Stewart** led an invited workshop on academic, activist, and artist Reyhan Şahin, who performs under the artist name Dr. Bitch Ray. The event, "Pussy Deluxe: Porn-Rap Performance, Politics, and Popphority in the Music of Dr. Bitch Ray," was held virtually on November 16, 2020.

Dr. **Cybel H. McFadden** presented a paper, "Screening Racialized France: Documenting Exclusion

and Integration in Contemporary French Cinema,” at the Society of Cinema and Media Studies conference in March. For the 20th–21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, she organized a round table, “*Mariannes noires: considérations de la création artistique et activiste*,” that featured professors Mame-Fatou Niang and Maboula Soumahoro. Dr. McFadden also gave a flash presentation, “Domestic Labor Revealed and Adapted: From *Jeanne Dielman* to Zoom 2020–2021.”

Dr. **Jocelyn Aksin**’s article, “A Staged Migration to Europe: Transgenerational Trauma in Özdamar’s *Perikızı*,” was published in a Special Issue of the University of Oregon’s journal, *Konturen*: “Writing Migration — Dissolving and Resolving Contours.”

As part of the LLC Works lecture series at UNCG, **Noor Ghazi** gave a presentation entitled, “Grew Up during War to Create Peace” as a part of the LLC Works series on faculty research. Her presentation focused on her Arabic translation of



the book, *Preparing for Peace*, by the eminent peace studies scholar, John Paul Lederach.

Dr. **Ignacio López Alemany** gave a research presentation at LLC Works entitled, “The Poetry of the Spanish Vihuelists.” Based on research that Dr. Lopez Alemany conducted in connection with the prestigious Biruté Ciplijauskaitė Fellowship in Spanish Poetry that he was awarded in 2019–20 from the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, the presentation traced the cultural evolution of the vihuela from its Arabic origins to its reinvention as a classical lute, focusing on questions of cultural identity that lie at the core of the instrument’s transformation.

Thanks to their extraordinary contributions to the Department of Languages, Literature, and Cultures, Dr. **Brenda Ross**, **Mary Ann Horley**, and **Pamela Taylor** are this year’s recipients of the annual Above and Beyond Lecturer’s Awards. Congratulations, and many thanks!

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