



THE NEWSLETTER

Department of World Languages and Literatures



“Speak a new language so that the world will be a new world.” -Rumi

Number 8

Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven

Summer 2017

CHAIR'S REMARKS

As another academic year comes to a close, it is always a delight to reflect back on the Department's many accomplishments throughout the year and to anticipate to the coming term.

The 2016-2017 academic year was marked by a high level of faculty transition as several faculty colleagues left the University, while others joined the Department. Dr. Lorrie Verplaetse retired in January, after almost two decades at SCSU. During her extraordinary career, she built a significant record of accomplishments, both inside and outside of the classroom. She grew the MS in TESOL program from about 5 enrollees to one that has consistently admitted 15 to 20 new students every year. Thanks in great part to her efforts, our MS in TESOL/Bilingual Education program is considered one of the best—if not the best—in the state. In addition, she brought nearly 5 million dollars in US Department of Education grant funds, through which she developed and supported the Training for all Teachers Program. Marisa Ferraro, who has worked side-by-side with Dr. Verplaetse for the past decade managing the Department of Education grant, will begin a tenure-track position in SCSU's Department of Curriculum and Learning this fall. On behalf of the members of the Department, I congratulate Lorrie and Marisa and wish them luck in their new endeavors.

This year, our cherished Lab Director, Dr. Jian Wu, left the Department to return to his native China. Our language labs and Chinese program flourished during Dr. Wu's time at SCSU, and he is already sorely missed. Among his many accomplishments, he created a highly successful mobile iPad lab for the Department, enriched countless classes with his expertise in computer assisted language learning and grew our Chinese program. Upon his departure in January, we welcomed Dr. I-Ju (Elu) Tu as our new Language Lab Coordinator. Dr. Tu, who is originally from Taiwan, recently earned her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In her first semester on campus, Dr. Tu did a tremendous amount of work to assure there was a seamless transition. Her presence has already had a very positive impact on the Department, and we all look forward to working with her in the coming year.

The members of the Department also anxiously await the arrival of Dr. William Flores, who was hired for a full time, tenure-track position in Spanish for the Professions. A native of Peru, Dr. Flores earned his PhD at the University of California, Riverside, and is currently Associate

Professor of Spanish at California Baptist University. Dr. Flores brings significant expertise teaching Medical Spanish courses and growing minor and certificate programs in Spanish for the professions at his previous institution. Dr. Flores has also published extensively on Latin American literature, which he analyzes through an eco-critical lens. We welcome Dr. Flores to SCSU and look forward to supporting him as he grows our minor and certificate in Spanish and Latino Cultures for Health Professionals, which was approved this spring.

Also in the area of faculty transition, Dr. Sobeira Latorre assumed the position of Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. Given that the program services the largest major on campus, Dr. Latorre has been quite busy leading and directing the program. Known in the Department for the time and care she devotes to her advisees and her strong ability to create curricula, Dr. Latorre has already been a tremendous asset to the IDS program.

This year the Department continued to host internationally acclaimed guest lectures and to hold Department events. Dr. Lisa Vitale and her colleagues from the Italian section hosted the renowned social critic, Camile Paglia, who gave a campus-wide lecture on American popular culture. Elena Schmitt and her colleagues from the TESOL Section brought Professor Sylvina Montrul to speak on the topic of heritage language learners. Finally, the Spanish section and the Women's Studies program collaborated in bringing Chilean feminist activist and writer, Pía Barros, back to campus to speak about literature's role in ending gender-based violence. These are just a few of the numerous scholars and artists we had on campus this year. The individual section reports in this newsletter provide complete reports of the many programming events we did this year.

In addition to bringing prominent speakers to campus, the Department also organized a number of events for students and the community. In May, we celebrated our graduates at a beautiful graduation party. I again extend my many congratulations to all of our graduates and wish them luck in the future. Sandra Caro (Instructor of Spanish) and Yan Searcy (Associate Dean of Health and Human Services) collaborated in organizing our second annual Latino Health Fair, featuring a panel of speakers from the local healthcare community, student poster sessions and information tables from community organizations. Dr. Nichole Gleisner (French) and Dr. Luisa Piemontese (Spanish) took student volunteers to the Connecticut MoM Dental Clinic again this year, where our students used their language skills to help community members get much-needed services. Finally, the Department co-sponsored Culture Fest, routinely one of the most well attended and fun events on campus.

We are all very proud of faculty and students from our Department who have won awards and scholarships this year. Dr. Pina Palma received one of the University's highest honors this year—the Faculty Scholar Award—for her book, *Savoring Power and Tasting the Times: the Metaphor of Food in Medieval and Renaissance Italian Literature*. I also wish to express my congratulations to the following students who earned awards and scholarships this year: Bailey Sullivan, Barbara Luther and Karl Grannan received the German Book Club Awards; Kanita Mote was awarded the Relyea Endowed Scholarship and a Tarini Endowed Scholarship; Emily Gaspar was granted the Rebecca Ward and the Mastrianni Memorial Scholarships; Marisol

Rivera received the Th rese C. Petto Endowment Scholarship; Deanna Scotto was granted the Tamburri Endowment for Italian Studies, the Michael Vena Endowed Scholarship and a Tarini Scholarship, and Veronica Egas received a Tarini Scholarship.

All of our student clubs remained very active this year, organizing conversation tables, charity events, get-togethers, workshops and field trips. Thank you to our student leaders and faculty sponsors for all they do to enrich student life through participation in clubs. These activities truly enrich the experience of our students on campus.

In closing, I want to wish to our study abroad students and directors safe travels as they embark on summer programs. We send our warmest regards to our students and directors, Dr. Luke Eilderts and Dr. Carlos Arboleda, as they live and learn in Paris and Salamanca. The Department is also proud to send a group of students—the first to receive the Shea Scholarship—to Puerto Rico this summer. Have a wonderful time and see you next year.

Dr. Resha Cardone, Chairperson
Department of World Languages and Literatures

FRENCH SECTION NEWS



From L to R: Smana Seradieu, Ashlé Santos, Taylor Bird, Luke Eilderts

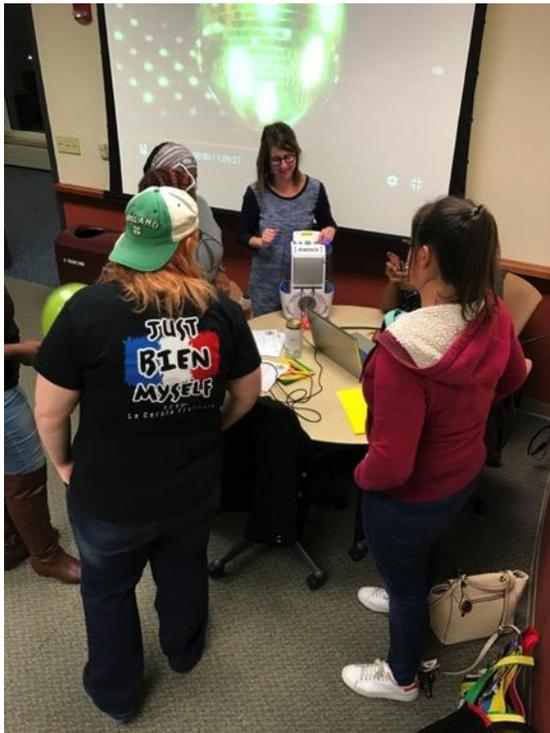
The 2016-2017 academic year has been a productive one for the French section. Indeed, this year saw the largest graduating class of French students in some time, with eight receiving their B.A. in French. Moreover, many completed a second B.A. or B.S. in another discipline. We congratulate those students for all of their hard work and dedication, and we wish them well on the next chapter of their professional and personal lives.

Taylor Bird (B.A. French and B.S. Communication Disorders) was accepted into the Teaching Assistant Program in France, a competitive program where

graduating American students apply to teach English in the public education system in France. Ms. Bird will be welcomed into the Académie de Nantes in western France, where she will teach English to high school students. She has said on a number of occasions that her background in Communication Disorders and French will serve her well in this new adventure, and we could not agree more. Upon return from France, she will enter an M.S. program in Communication Disorders. *Félicitations, Taylor!*

Other students continuing on to graduate school include Katie Chevalier, who will

join the M.A. program in Romance Languages here at Southern, and Smana Seradieu, who will begin her studies in Social Work at Adelphi University. Robin Stanley plans to put her French and German to good use when she returns to study Political Science, Ashlé Santos and Shelda Pierre are considering advanced study in translation and social work, respectively, and Kamaya Bilheimer will complete her B.S. in early childhood education. Finally, Andrew “André” Janz will return to Paris as a student intern during the Southern in Paris 2017 Program, with graduate school not far off the horizon. Congratulations to all our graduating students!



Professor Nichole Gleisner demonstrating the Karaoke machine

During this year’s French National Honor Society ceremony, we welcomed several regular and honorary members to its ranks. Newly inducted students include Dany Delva, Aissatou Ganou, Rootchena Laurore, Shelda Pierre, Ashlé Santos, and Smana Seradieu.

The French club continues to be very active and organize a variety of events, including what turned out to be the most popular one of the semester, Karaoke night. Students and faculty alike wowed the audience with renditions of such popular songs as “Cette année-là,” “Je suis malade,” “Sous l’océan,” and “Le temps des cathédrales.”



From L to R: Jessica Hartwell, Smana Seradiou, Ashlé Santos, Dany Delva, Andrew Janz, Kamaya Bilheimer, Taylor Bird, Aissatou Ganou.

Finally, I would like to thank the part-time French faculty, who always go the extra mile to help our students: Dr. Connie Ecklund, Joe Flood, Jim Garofolo, Dr. Nichole Gleisner, Cindi Kuzman, Moussa Ly, Olga Musacchio, and Andrea Ritter. Without them, the program would not exist!

**Dr. Luke Eilderts, Assistant Professor of French
Coordinator of the French Section**

Southern in Paris 2017

This June, nine students spent the month in the French capital refining their cultural and linguistic competencies. Outings included the Musée du Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, the Palace of Versailles, the castle of Vaux-le-Vicomte, the medieval village and UNESCO World heritage site of Provins, the Garnier Opera House, and more! At the time of this writing, students have just celebrated their first week on the trip and they are hungry for more. Interested in following the students? Check out the program's Tumblr page: <https://scsu2017paris.tumblr.com>



From L to R: Nina Kestenbaum, Sophia Whipple, Pat Wiener, Ashley Ruzicki, Felicia Edwards, Zack Voisine, Andrew Janz, Rachel Martineau, Alexandra Takacs

GERMAN SECTION NEWS

The 2016-2017 year for the German Program was a quiet but steady one. In the fall the German program offered GER 100, GER 101 and GER 201 with the spring semester offering again both GER 100 and GER 101 as well as GER 203. The upcoming fall 2017 semester we will once again be offering a 300-level course, GER 301, as part of the Distance Classroom CCSU coordination of German programs. Over the past year I have developed a plan which will allow both SCSU students and CCSU students to complete their various German program requirements by aligning our course offerings with CCSU sequence of German courses. In addition, I have planned these courses to reflect an updated curriculum which both builds upon basic liberal arts skills and incorporates content which is of interest to our students' lives and majors.

Our German Club held regular weekly meetings always centered around student presentations of one aspect of German, Austrian or Swiss culture. The students chose to participate in the Fall food Drive during the holidays, visited a German restaurant *Old Heidelberg* in Bethel, CT, and planned a trip to New York City to visit the *Neue Galerie*, an Austrian art museum.

One of our German majors graduated this May after being such a wonderful part of our German program. Congratulations to Robin Stanley!

I would like to thank Annemarie Geibel, who has been at the heart of the German program at SCSU for more than 20 years, for her help this year. As always her passion and love of teaching are essential to our German program and bring the students much joy. Without her help this year's German program would not have done as well as it did. I also would like to thank Gillian Fox for her continued help with the German Club. She was always there and helps to make the meetings fun. Finally, I must also thank Shelby Cox, the student president of the German Club this year. She so effortlessly slipped into her leadership role and made sure that students were engaged in campus activities and explored German culture on and off campus. Thank you to all of my German colleagues! Vielen, vielen Dank!

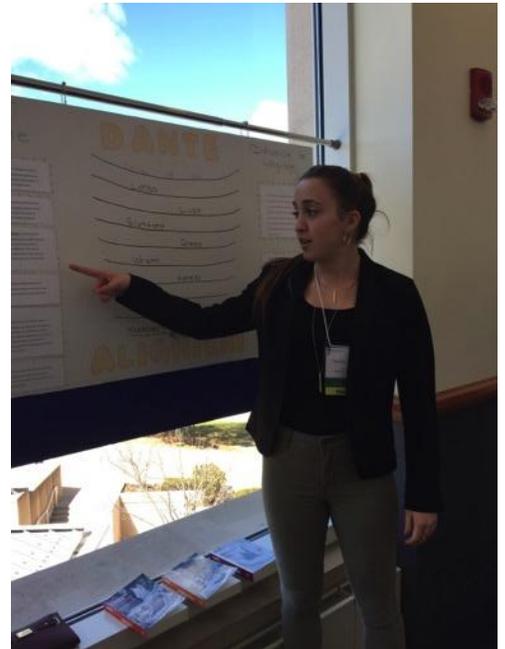
Christine Dombrowski
Assistant Professor of German
Coordinator of the German Section

ITALIAN SECTION NEWS

Many achievements have marked another vibrant academic year for the Italian section of the World Languages and Literatures Department at SCSU. Our students showcased their accomplishments at many different venues. During Fall 2016, Deanna Scotto, B.A. Italian 2018, was selected for a highly competitive internship with NOIAW – National Organization of Italian American Women – in New York City. Her major and fluency in Italian, among her other strengths, were crucial in ensuring Deanna’s internship. In addition, Deanna spent her Spring 2017 semester studying in Ferrara, Italy. During her stay, she visited many places in Italy.



Here at home, in April 2017, Christina Verzino discussed the fruits of her research with a poster presentation on “Dante’s *Inferno*” at SCSU’s Third Annual Undergraduate Research Conference. At the same conference, Hernan Zambrano, presented “Dante’s Demise.” Both presentations were very well received by the public. *Complimenti Christina e Hernan!*



Danielle Sahni, Italian 2016, was accepted to pursue a Master’s degree in American Studies at Umass Boston with a teaching fellowship. Danielle is interested in continuing her research on the Italian American experience, which she carried out this year in an advanced undergraduate

course on the Modern Novel. *Congratulazioni, Danielle!*

HollyAnne Cairo completed her student teaching experience in the spring and graduated this semester with a B.S. in Italian. *Congratulazioni, HollyAnne!*



We wish both Danielle and HollyAnne the best in their future endeavors!

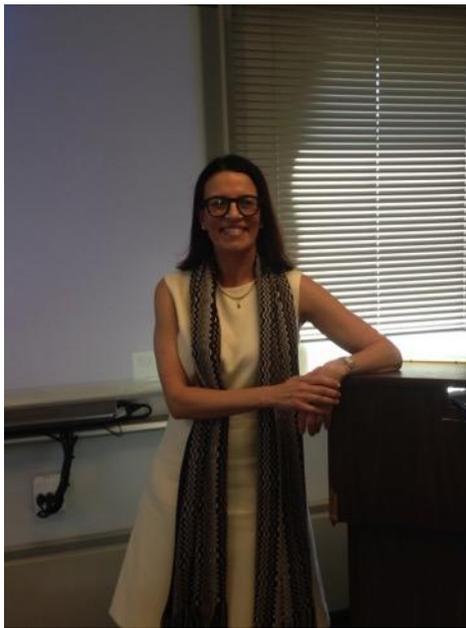
Under the presidency of Matt Torrissi, *Italianissimi*, the Italian Club, sponsored film viewings, pizza nights, bake sales, and, most impressively, a “cannoli delivery” event that featured cannoli made by club members. The success of the initial “cannoli delivery” event was such that a series of successive “deliveries dates” were scheduled.

In Fall 2016 and Spring 2017, under the direction of Prof. Tony di Pietro, the Italian section continued its successful presentation of newly released Italian movies. Among the eight movies shown this past year, we are proud to note that our program was the first in the greater New Haven community to screen the award winning *FUOCOAMARE*. Not surprisingly, SCSU students, faculty, and New Haven community at large, were present during the October screening of this movie. *Complimenti e grazie, Prof. Di Pietro!*

In continuing the tradition that Professor Vitale inaugurated to celebrate International Women’s Day, throughout the course of the academic year the Italian section hosted the lectures of four internationally renowned scholars from other universities and institutions. In October 2016, the acclaimed author and social critic Camille Paglia (University of the Arts, Philadelphia) spoke on a timely topic “Women, Ethnicity, and Race in Modern Media.” In February 2017, Ombretta Frau (Mount Holyoke) presented “Accidental Heroines: Spinsters in Early Twentieth Century Italy.” In March, Professor Gabriella Romani (Seton Hall) spoke on “What is a Heroine? 19th Century Literary Portrayals of Italian Female Characters.” And in April, Carol Chiodo (Yale), presented “Women and Their Books in the Middle Ages.” These lectures fostered rich and wide-ranging conversations among students, faculty, and guests from the New Haven community who attended. *Grazie, Professor Vitale, for initiating this fascinating talk series!*



Camille Paglia



Ombretta Frau

Speaking of Professor Vitale, we are happy to report that during her sabbatical year she traveled to Siena, Florence, and Rome to conduct research. In May, she attended the 52nd International Medieval Congress, in Kalamazoo, MI, and presented “Echoes of Dante: Catherine of Siena and Poetic Theology.” This June Professor Vitale will

return to Italy, this time at the Università di Palermo, Sicily, to present “*Caput Mundi, Caput Italiae: The Idea of Rome and Patriae in St. Catherine of Siena.*” *Complimenti Professor Vitale!*

The energetic intellectual spirit that animates the Italian section at SCSU was also exemplified by Professor Larkin’s accomplishments. She presented the papers “Italy on Demand: Maximizing mobile device integration in the language and culture classroom” at the *American Association of Teachers of Italian International Conference* at the Università degli Studi di Napoli di Federico II in the summer of 2016. In April 2017 she presented “Italy goes Boom!”



Biblioteca Nazionale Firenze

The Fascist ghost town in Antonioni’s *L’Avventura*” at *Nightmare Spaces/Uncanny Places: the 13th Annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of*

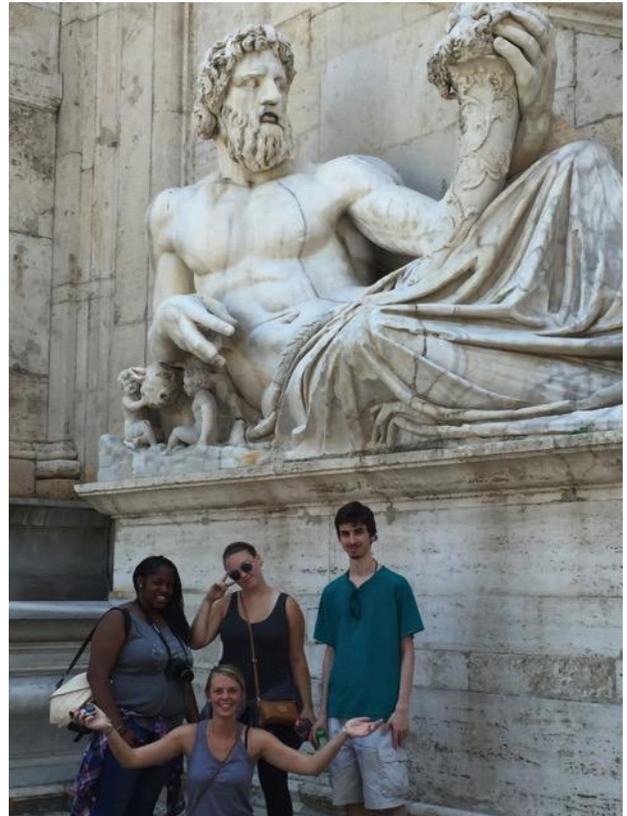
Environment, Space, and Place, which took place in San Diego, CA. She will present “A Futurist vision for Palermo: Benedetta’s *Sintesi delle comunicazioni* at the *Palazzo delle Poste* this summer at the *American Association of Teachers of Italian International Conference* at the Università di Palermo, Sicily. *Well done, Professor Larkin!*

The Italian section was honored to have Professor Palma recognized as the recipient of the prestigious 2016 Faculty Scholar Award for her book *Savoring Power Consuming the Times: The Metaphor of Food in Medieval and Renaissance Italian Literature* (Notre Dame UP). For this she was celebrated at a university-wide event. In the Summer 2016, she presented “Farewell to Naples: The Labyrinth in Ferrante’s *Story of a New Name*” at the Università degli Studi di Napoli di Federico II. This April, Professor Palma presented “Ada Gobetti’s *Diario Partigiano: Women and War*” at the Annual Conference of the American Association for Italian Studies, which took place in Columbus, Ohio.

The SCSU Montepulciano Program in Tuscany continued last summer. Four students traveled to Montepulciano, Siena, with Professor Palma. While living and studying there, the group traveled to and spent time in Rome, Firenze, Siena, and Perugia. Students also visited Venice and

took the time for a quick day-at-the beach in Cinqueterre.

Dr. Pina Palma
Professor of Italian
Coordinator of the Italian Section



SCSU Tuscany, students in Rome

SPANISH SECTION NEWS



Spanish Professor, Dr. Rubén Pelayo, was distinguished by REDIPE/Red Iberoamericana de Pedagogía (USA Chapter) with the “Mención de Honor al Mérito Educativo, Pedagógico e Investigativo Iberoamericano 2017” for his enormous and brilliant contribution through his research, conferences, and publication to the life and work of the Nobel Laureate Colombian writer Gabriel García Márquez. The ceremony took place on May 18th and 19th at The City University of New York (CUNY) as part of the International Symposium on “Diversity, Innovation, Language and Culture” sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages at Baruch College, The City University of New York and REDIPE.

Dr. Rubén Pelayo has dedicated the major part of his academic career to the research, symposia, and publication on life and works of Gabriel García Márquez. In 2017, in spite of suffering ill health, Dr. Pelayo gave a lecture, “Love and Death in the Stories of García Márquez” at the Cineteca of Zacatecas, Mexico, on March 24th. It was organized by the Secretary of Culture and the Government of the State of Zacatecas, México, through the Zacatecas Institute of Culture “Ramón López Velarde.”



William Flores, a renowned researcher in Hispanic literature and culture will join the faculty as a professor of Spanish for the Professions. His teaching experience in both literature and Hispanic linguistics, including courses taught for the single subject teaching credential for Spanish and the medical Spanish program, has given him a broad view of teaching and learning. Upon accepting this position, Dr. Flores expressed that he sees many opportunities to serve at Southern Connecticut State University, particularly in promoting the minor and certificate programs in Spanish and Latino Cultures for Health Professionals. “I would like to foster new lines of collaborative undergraduate research, teaching, and service involvement for the highest benefit of the student experience and institutional advancement in all its manifestations, including increased

enrollment and academic excellence,” he expressed.

From February 17 and 18, 2016 the CT MOM Free Dental Clinic was held at Hillhouse High School on April 17-18. Dr. Luisa Piemontese coordinated the active attendance and participation with several of our Medical Spanish students. CTMOM is a two-day clinic that provides free dental care to the underserved and uninsured in Connecticut. The Connecticut Mission of Mercy (CTMOM) is a project of the Connecticut Foundation For Dental Outreach (CFDO). CTMOM is funded entirely through corporate and individual donations and is staffed by approximately 1,600 dental/medical professionals and civilian volunteers.

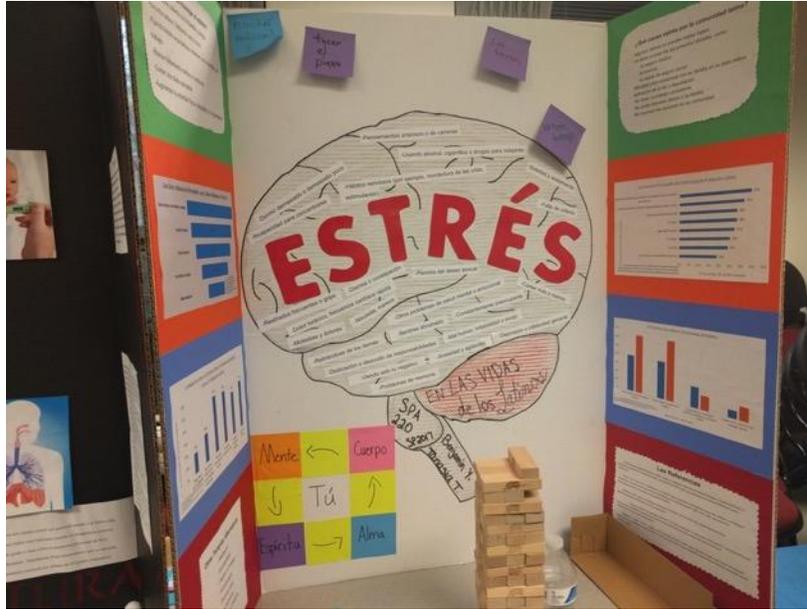
On October 26, 2016 the Spanish Section and the Club de Español sponsored an activity to welcome Yeilín González Reinoso, Director of Colegio de España, Salamanca and Profesora Blanca Marcos, Academic Coordinator of Colegio de España who came to visit our campus and other partner institutions on the East Coast of the USA.

On Dec. 2 2016, the Spanish Section celebrated the initiation ceremony of the Spanish Honor Society, *Sigma Delta Pi*, under the coordination of Dr. Miaowei Weng. This is the fourth year we have had the ceremony and this year we proudly initiated 16 students. We hope to continue the ceremony in the future in order to celebrate students’ academic excellence in Hispanic studies and contribute to the promotion of the Spanish language and Spanish-speaking cultures in the United States.

★★★Colloquium on Latino Health ★★★



The Second Latino Health Fair was successfully held on Tuesday, April 25. More than one hundred participants had the opportunity to attend and participate a variety of activities that included a Panel Discussion on Latino Health, a SCSU Medical Spanish Students Expo, and a Community Health Fair. The activity included the active attendance and participation of speakers and representatives from Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, Hispanic Health Council, Integrated Wellness Group Asis Medical Associates Obstetrics & Gynecology, Connecticut Coalition on Aging, Palabra Counseling & Training Center, and SCSU students and faculty. This very successful activity was organized by our Spanish colleague Sandra Caro and Dr. Yan Searcy, Associate Dean of Health and Human Services.



♪♪♪ **Study Abroad Program** ♪♪♪
SCSU –SALAMANCA, 2017 SPAIN PROGRAM
JUNE 30-JULY 31

This Summer, Dr. Carlos Arboleda will continue directing his 27th SCSU study abroad program in Salamanca, Spain. A total of 17 students will be participating in this prestigious program. Six of our undergraduate participants (Mikayla M. Wyskiel, Rachel Rizzo, José Medina, José Arévalo-García, Marisol Rivera, Samantha Foley) were awarded a SGA scholarship; another three Spanish graduate majors (Yarel Marshal, Mariela Mostacero, and Anthony Gómez) also received GSAC awards to attend de Colegio de España in Salamanca. The award recipients were chosen by a competitive selection process based on a high demonstrated GPA in their studies.

For more information about the study abroad Summer Program in Salamanca, please contact Dr. Arboleda: arboledac1@southernct.edu



Salamanca pre-departure orientation meeting held at SCSU on June 3, 2017

A total of ten accepted graduate final research papers will be edited and published by Dr. Carlos Arboleda in the August-September 2017 Bulletin of Red Iberoamericana de Pedagogía (REDIPE). These papers were elaborated as part of Dr. Arboleda's Spring semester graduate seminar (Spa 528): *Cervantes and the Birth of the Modern Narrative and Drama: The Importance of Don Quixote in the Modern and Contemporary Pedagogy*. These student works address the legacy of *Don Quixote* for the modern and postmodern concept of narrative and dramatic discourses. Students apply the disciplinary norms of reading literature including both close reading (aesthetic components, genre study, narratology) and contemporary approaches to literary, pedagogical and cultural theory. The idea, according to Dr. Arboleda, is to expose graduate students to a much broader base of knowledge, not just about the topic, but also about the publishing process and the journals they might be interested in. "Writing is another excellent avenue for learning," he says.

Dr. Carlos Arboleda
Professor of Spanish
Coordinator of the Spanish Section



Spanish Basic Language Program

The Basic Language Program in Spanish enjoyed another exciting year in 2016-2017 with a combined total of 87 sections of SPA100, 101, 200, and 220. Dr. Luisa Piemontese, Coordinator of the program, successfully directed a team of dedicated instructors who, for several semesters have been using a specialized curriculum, particularly tailored to our students at SCSU. Dr. Piemontese would like to

acknowledge all the instructors whom she trained in *Silent Way* and who enthusiastically taught SPA100 using this approach (Gillian Fox, Dr. Jesse Gleason, Sara Hall, Joanne Moniodes, Dr. Viviana Rigo de Alonso, and Sandra Torres). Also to be recognized are the instructors on the SPA101 team, who embraced Dr. Piemontese's materials and curriculum and skillfully tailored them to their particular

classrooms and students (Susana Albartal, Dr. Carlos Arboleda, Kathleen Bonn, Elsa Calderón, Cecilia Couto, Veronica Egas, Kevin Menescardi, Rafael Palacios, Luz Tobón, Mario Yopez). A special acknowledgment goes for the instructors of SPA200 who worked very hard to create their own thematic curricula (Marilyn Sarria – Technology; Alina Zúñiga – The Environment; Jorge Rodríguez – The City; Leslie Harshfield – Legal Spanish; Raquel Rodríguez Santos – Spanish for Educators; Iván Ferrero Ruiz – Business Spanish; Carlos López – Business Spanish; Dr. Miaowei Weng – Children’s Literature. Sandra Caro worked tirelessly as instructor of SPA220 - Medical Spanish, and as organizer of the Latino Health Fair in April 2017. During this event, SCSU students and community leaders from Greater New Haven Latino health organizations collaborated in a forum and expo. There are other examples of our student involvement with Latino and Spanish-speaking communities. In Fall 2016, our students of SPA100, 101, 200, and 220 collected hundreds of toothbrushes, toothpastes and

floss in support of the efforts of a group of SCSU nursing students who travelled to villages in Perú. This is the second year that our program contributed to this effort. We have named this collection *Sonrisas para Perú* (Smiles for Perú). In September 2016 and April 2017, students from our program volunteered as escorts and translators/ interpreters for the CT MoM Free Dental Clinic in Hartford and in New Haven. In April, our Spanish volunteers were also joined by volunteers from the French and Italian Programs.

Beginning in Fall 2017, there will be a few changes. Dr. Piemontese will be coordinating the Spanish Program and Dr. Jesse Gleason will be coordinating the Basic Spanish Language Program. We look forward to an exciting and successful academic year under the leadership and expertise of Dr. Gleason.

Dr. Luisa Piemontese
Professor of Spanish
Coordinator of the Basic Spanish
Language Program

MA in Romance Languages



2016-2017 has been a good year for the program of MA in Romance Languages. The program keeps growing steadily. As a community, we embrace incoming students, support our current students and celebrate their achievements. In the year of 2016-17, we admitted 10 new students and successfully graduated 5 students. A two-year plan program is taking shape, where students take two courses per semester (a graduate course + an undergraduate course or a graduate course+ a core course) and use the summer for capstone courses or study-abroad programs. As a result, we will send three graduate students to take courses in Spain in the Summer 2017 and nine students will be working on their capstone courses in Fall 2017.

This has also been a productive year for students' academic achievements and awards. Ten graduate students will be publishing their articles in the international journal *Redipe*. These students are Ivonne

Baldi, Veronica Egas, Anthony Gomez, Sandra Goncalves, Catherine Haase, Yarel Marshall, Kevin Menescardi, Mariela Mostacero, Andrea Salmeron, and Tony Senes. Congratulations to all! We also congratulate Veronica Egas for receiving the Tarini Scholarship. Our recent graduate, Gina Gallo, will start another Master's program in Latin and we send her our best wishes for her next graduate degree.

We also expect some changes in the coming year. The current graduate application platform FolderWave will be replaced by TargetX, which should streamline students' application and faculty's review. In the Spanish section, we have been working on the updating of the MA reading list and also the comprehensive exam guidelines. These changes will keep our program up to date.

Dr. Miaowei Weng
Assistant Professor of Spanish
Coordinator of the MA in Romance Languages



❖ Foreign Language Certification Program ❖

During the 2016-2017 academic year the Foreign Language Certification program remained strong and resilient. Throughout this year the program saw many important changes, which should make it more accessible to many of our students. At the undergraduate level the most significant change occurred in the implementation of the new State of CT guidelines with regards to the Praxis Core exams. These tests can now be replaced by SAT or ACT scores and are only required to be taken (not necessarily passed) for those students without SAT or ACT scores as part of our application process. If any of the exam scores demonstrate a student needs additional work, the SCSU School of Education is working on guidelines for remediation in those areas. This is extremely beneficial for our students, especially those who are either heritage speakers or ESL students. I expect many more students to successfully enter and complete our program in the coming years, as we have lost many of these students in the past due to their inability to pass Praxis.

Secondly, the application process is being streamlined and simplified allowing students to apply to the program either through Tk20 or TargetX in the coming semesters. The details are still being worked out, but this should allow access to their test scores and transcripts through the database and not required double submission of these materials when applying to our program. At the graduate level, students are now also applying via the Graduate database Folderwave/TargetX, which has made their acceptance and application process simpler. The most significant change at the graduate level will be the change from a graduate program to a post-baccalaureate program. As part of the program revision, required courses have changed slightly as well. Students will now take courses which have been newly designed to address program deficiencies, specifically in lesson planning and classroom management. These two areas had been identified in surveys of graduates by their employing districts and supervisors.

This coming year I will be preparing to submit our accreditation report to CAEP for our undergraduate and graduate FLT Certification programs. The report is due in March 2018. In addition, SCSU continues to be an official proctoring site for the ACTFL OPI and WPT through LanguageTesting.Org. We experienced a great increase in the number of students registering to take the exam on campus this academic year due to the new WL requirement waiver options. We offer SCSU as a proctor site during both the fall and spring semesters in our Open Lab and it is great asset to our FLT Certification students as well, who are required to take and pass at Advanced Low both exams sometime before their senior year. Our numbers remains strong with approximately 20 undergraduate and graduate students being admitted this year and 2 new graduate students already accepted and enrolled in courses for the coming Fall 2017 semester as DSAPs. With the coming years these numbers should continue to increase.

I would like to thank, Elena Schmitt, for taking over the position unexpectedly during the fall semester! She did such a wonderful job advising and admitting students to our program. It was comforting to know that the program was in such good hands while I was gone during the fall semester. Thank you, Elena, I am forever grateful for your willingness to help when I most needed it!

Dr. Christine Dombrowski
Assistant Professor of German
Coordinator of the FL Certification

• Bilingual/Multicultural Ed & TESOL •

This has been an eventful year for the MS in Bilingual/Bicultural Education and TESOL program. Dr. Lorrie Verplaetse, the program coordinator of 17 years, retired in December of 2016. Both students and faculty wish her a healthy retirement life filled with academic pursuits and fun adventures!



MS Bilingual/Multicultural Education & TESOL graduate students and faculty

We had a very successful semi-annual TESOL capstone colloquium, with friends—old and new—lots of food, learning and laughs. Twelve of our current graduate students presented their final capstone projects in an engaging poster-presentation format.

We would like to wholeheartedly congratulate these students, who will be graduating over this Spring and Summer semesters: Xiomara Vasquez, Teresa Guerra, Lily DeYoung, Caroline Johnson, Tracey Tangarife, Tashi Sanchez Llaury, Estephanie Kosinski, Monica Concas, Ken Crilly, Nicolette Marcal, Anne Stolpe, Kristin Mariano! We are VERY proud of all of you! We wish you the best in your endeavors to help all students—and especially English learners—succeed! A special congratulations to Jonathan Hill who graduated from the program in December, 2016.



Pictures from the semi-annual TESOL capstone colloquium

Our graduate student Lily DeYoung presented her work on the needs of special education students and the needs of English learners. Her poster was displayed at the Graduate Student Research and Creative Activity Conference. The title of her presentation was “*Disproportionate Representation of ELLs in Special Education.*”



Lily DeYoung presenting at the Graduate Student Research and Creative Activity Conference

A Faculty Development grant in the Fall of 2016 helped us bring to campus one of the prominent linguists working in the field of Heritage Languages and Language Attrition, Dr. Sylvina Montrul - Professor of the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and Professor of Linguistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she is also Director of the University Language Academy for Children and Director of the Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism Lab. Her presentation focused on how native language proficiency in bilingual speakers can be shaped by the environment. In contrast to monolingual native speakers, the language mastery of heritage speakers by early adulthood is often significantly different from that of both their immigrant parents and native speakers in the home country. She demonstrated how insufficient use of the language during late childhood and adolescence can profoundly affect specific aspects of their command of grammar, interrupting the full development of the language and turning their native language into a second language.

We have been busy reaching out to schools in New London, New Haven, and Stamford, where the increases of the numbers English learners have been remarkable and the shortage of Bilingual Ed/TESOL teachers is striking. In collaboration with the undergraduate Bilingual Education program we developed informational materials about our unique programs and attended district career fairs

Shea Student Scholars

We are proud of the outcomes of our collaboration with the School of Education in the effort to initiate an exchange program with universities in Puerto Rico. Drs. Helen Marx, Angela Lopez-Velasquez, and Elena Schmitt worked closely with the Dean of School of Education, Dr. Stephen Hegedus, and were supported by the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Stephen Breese, to establish the first cohort of Shea Scholars who are travelling to study at the InterAmerican University at Arecibo in Puerto Rico. Congratulations to Stephanie Sanchez and Odalis Mercado – the two Spanish students who will be pioneering this exchange program! We would also like to congratulate Leslie Lopez and Nalleli Barcera – our representatives of SOE who will be travelling to Puerto Rico this summer.



Shea

Scholars heading to Puerto Rico for a summer study trip

MS TESOL faculty have also been working hard on their classroom research for publication:

Gleason, J. & Schmitt, E. (in press). Evaluating teacher tech literacies using an argument-based approach. In S. Link & J. Li (Eds.) *Assessment of online education*. San Marco, TX: CALICO.

Gleason, J. & Schmitt, E. (under review). The knowledge framework for building teacher awareness of language in content instruction. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*.

Gleason, J. & Slater, T. (2017). Patterns of tasks, patterns of talk: Developing meaning in two third-year Spanish courses. *Language, Culture and Curriculum*, 30(2), 129-156. DOI: 10.1080/07908318.2016.1195398

Schmitt, E. (under review). 'The lost pieces': Morphological aspects of language attrition. In *Handbook on Language Attrition*, ed. Monika Schmid. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Schmitt, E. & Eilderts, L. (in press). Videoconferencing in the TESOL classroom. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*.

Dr. Elena Schmitt - Professor of TESOL - Graduate Coordinator of TESOL