



THE NEWSLETTER



Department of World Languages and Literatures



*Learning another language is not only learning
different words for the same things, but learning
another way to think about things.*

- Flora Lewis -



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CHAIR'S REMARKS:

It is a pleasure to write the chair's remarks for our 7th annual Department newsletter. This year, Department students and faculty have been especially busy hosting events and launching exciting innovations in teaching and learning. In these welcoming remarks I will share only some of the highlights; more detailed reports from each section will provide more depth into all the exciting work in which we've been engaged throughout the last academic year.

Our Department has been very active this year organizing activities and hosting guest lectures. All of our language clubs have been meeting regularly, holding fund raisers, having conversation tables where they practice their respective languages, attending field trips and workshops, and lending a hand at our many events, among other activities. Our five language clubs have only become more active with each passing year, thanks to the tremendous motivation of our student leaders and to the support and dedication of club advisors. I want to thank our club advisors for all their hard work this year in enriching the lives of our students: Dr. Jian Wu (Chinese Club), Dr. Pina Palma (Italianissimi); Dr. Christine Dombrowski (German Club), Dr. Rafael Hernández (Spanish Club) and Dr. Luke Eilderts (Le cercle français). If you are a student interested in becoming a part of these clubs, please reach out the the advisors.

This fall, Dr. Luke Eilderts installed SCSU's own chapter of the national French honor society, Pi Delta Phi. The installation included a beautiful ceremony at Southern on the Green where a special guest, Dr. Eileen Angelini, Professor of French at Canisius College, initiated our first society members. Dr. Eilderts has already held a second initiation ceremony this spring to welcome more recent French students into the society.

Our Italian program has long held the tradition of hosting lectures by notable researchers in the field. This year the section held the XIth Medieval Conference Series, where three outstanding scholars of Italian studies spoke about their research: Dr. Jane Tylus (New York University) presented a talk entitled, "The Mystery of the Spedale: Hospitality in Late Medieval Siena"; Dr. Amy Remensnyder (Brown University) delivered the paper, "Modern Refugees, Pre-modern pirates and Muslim Christian Trust on the Island of Lampedusa" and Dr. Susanna Barsella (Fordham University) presented "Art and Paidea in the Comedia delle Ninfe Fiorentina." Thanks to the outstanding work of our Italian faculty, our students and faculty were able to hear these inspiring lectures.

The Spanish section also organized a number of events. Dr. Rubén Pelayo and Dr. Miaowei Weng collaborated in organizing SCSU's second conference paying tribute to the life and works of Gabriel García Márquez. Among the presenters were Dr. Fan Ye of Beijing University and Dr. Gene Bell-Villa of Williams College. Six SCSU faculty members delivered presentations at the event, including: Dr. Maria Diamantis, Dr. Patricia Olney, Dr. Rubén Pelayo, Dr. David Pettigrew, Dr. Jacqueline Toce, and Dr. Carlos Torre. The section also hosted a celebration of the 25-year anniversary of our study abroad program to Salamanca, Spain. Alumni, students and community members came to the event, where they remembered past trips, celebrated the program's director, Dr. Carlos Arboleda, and enjoyed dinner and a flamenco dance performance by Melinda Marquez and her company. Finally, Sandra Caro and Dr. Luisa Piemontese organized a Latino Health Fair showcasing student work from the Medical Spanish courses and a panel of healthcare professionals from the local New Haven community.

The TESOL program continued to enrich intellectual life in the Department by bringing guest speakers. This year, the section held two workshops. The first, facilitated by Dr. David Malinowski (Yale University) and Steve Welsh (Columbia University), centered on the pedagogical uses of video-conferencing in foreign language and TESOL classrooms, while Georgetown University's Dr. Marianna Ryshina-Pankova presented the workshop, "Advanced Literacy and Complex Language Use through Grammatical Metaphor." Congratulations to the TESOL section for once again bringing these wonderful opportunities to our students and faculty.

Holding Department-wide events constitutes some of the most exciting work that we do, and this year the Department held two events that brought all our programs together. At the end of the year, we honored our graduates with a party at the Adanti Student Center. On behalf of all the faculty, I want to wish our newest graduates the best of luck in the future. We will miss you.

The Department wrapped up our busy year of programming with a daylong Olympics for World Languages (OWLS) event. Thanks to an enormous organizational effort on the part of Dr. Christine Dombrowski (committee chair), Dr. Lisa Vitale, Dr. Luke Eilderts and Dr. Luisa Piemontese, the Department hosted twenty world language teams from eight Connecticut high schools. Teams comprised of French, German, Italian, Spanish and heritage speakers of Spanish showed off their language skills in a daylong brain drain competition. The committee did amazing work reviving this spectacular event that was once a Department tradition years ago. We anticipate holding event yearly for many years to come.

The Department is known for curricular innovation; as such, there is always something exciting to report in this area. This year we began offering classes in our new, state of the art video conferencing room. The TESOL program made great use of the room, holding graduate courses combining students from SCSU with teachers from Stamford. The TESOL program is engaged in expanding the use of the classroom to educate more teachers from across the state. Our students also enjoyed taking a German class in the room offered by faculty at Central Connecticut State and Dr. Luke Eilderts taught a course combining his students of French with those from our sister campus. In the upcoming years, the Department plans to extend the use of the video-conferencing room to augment our language offerings in Arabic, Chinese, French and German as well as in TESOL.

Also in the area of technology-enhanced teaching and learning, the Department is proud to announce that we have purchased a classroom set of iPad Pros that we will begin using in the upcoming academic year. Finally, this year we removed the C or better policy to move from one language level to the next. Starting in the fall, students will be able to move freely from one level to the next, so long as they pass the preceding course.

Additionally, members of the Department are hard at work expanding our offerings in languages for the professions. Plans are in the works to launch a Certificate program in Medical Spanish for Health and Human services as well as to begin to officially offer professional courses we have been piloting during the last year, including Legal Spanish, Spanish for Educators and Business Spanish. The French Section is exploring the possibility of offering Medical French courses, while the German Section is working on a minor in Business German.

Honoring our outstanding students is a very rewarding part of the work we do in the Department. Congratulations to Michelle Martino for receiving the Frederick J. Zilly Award and to our German Book Club awardees: Megan McNivens, Eric Hanson, Danielle Dymond and Richard Vollmer. We are also very proud to announce the winners of our scholarships. Next year Hollyanne Cairo will receive both the World Languages and Literatures Retiree Award and the Rita and Ubaldo Tamburi Scholarship, while Kanita Mote will receive the Marguerite Fortier Smirnoff Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Congratulations to these outstanding students.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of two Visiting Assistant Professors who have added much to the Department over the last two years. Dr. Nichole Gleisner, who has been a wonderful asset to the French Section, will continue at SCSU in the upcoming year. Dr. Rodrigo Fuentes, who has enlivened the Spanish section piloting Business Spanish courses and holding creative writing workshops, has accepted a tenure-track job at Holy Cross University in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Department extends thanks to Dr. Gleisner and Dr. Fuentes for their contributions.

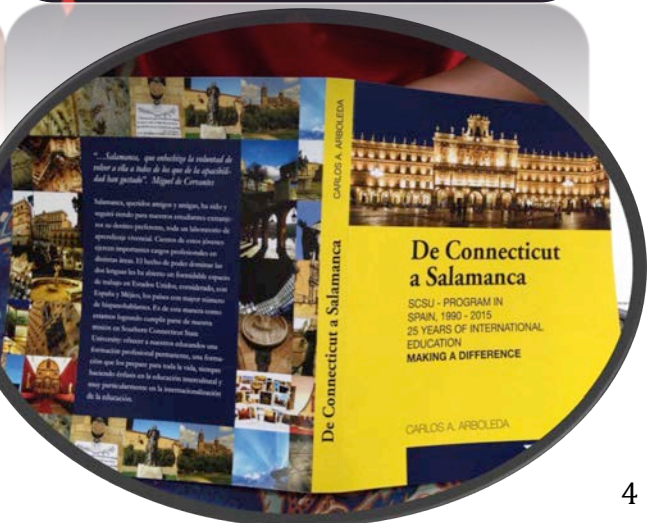
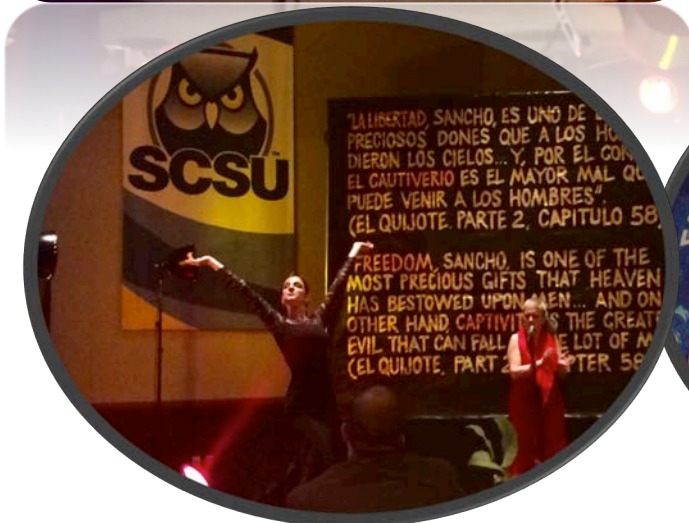
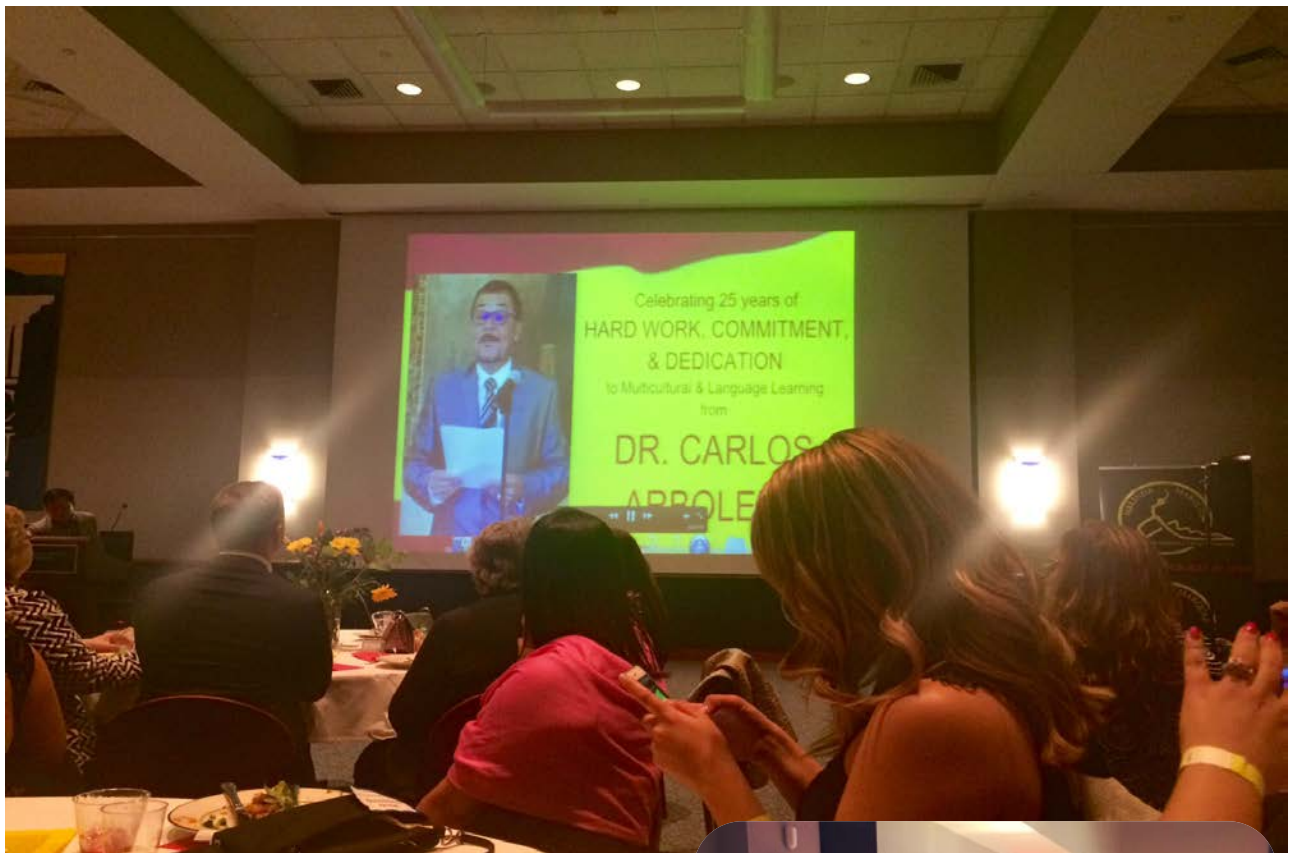
As we look toward the summer and the upcoming year, I want to acknowledge all of our graduates and to wish our two summer study abroad program directors—Dr. Pina Palma and Dr. Carlos Arboleda—much luck as they embark on study abroad trips to Tuscany, Italy, and to Salamanca, Spain, this summer.

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



Gala Celebration

On April 20th 2016, the Department, in conjunction with the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the Office of International Education, recognized the 25th anniversary of our Study Abroad Program in Salamanca, Spain. We held a gala celebration in the Adanti Student Center to recognize this program and the work of Dr. Carlos Arboleda. Over 100 people, including Southern's faculty, administrators and students, attended the great event and enjoyed an evening of entertainment, dinner, and flamenco music and dance. As part of the celebration, Dr. Arboleda presented *From Connecticut to Salamanca*, a book where he compiled cultural information, student reflections, travel experiences, photographs, poems, and articles about the Salamanca program. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be used to begin a new scholarship fund to benefit the program's future students. This year, a group of 24 students will participate in the 2016 Salamanca Summer Program from July 1st to July 31st.



2016 Olympics of World Languages (OWLS)

On May 16th, 2016 our department hosted the Olympics of World Languages (OWLS) at Southern CT State University for the first time in over 10 years. As an initial event, the



decision was made to keep the number of competing high schools small. We invited 20 teams to compete; four teams per language with French, German, Italian, Spanish and Spanish for Heritage Speakers representing the five language groups. Once registration closed, we had over forty schools register teams to compete. We were able to invite schools from Wilton to Storrs, Hamden to Bristol, all of which brought multiple teams representing various world languages. With the generous support of our department and the Dean of Arts and Sciences we were able to fund the event including t-shirts, trophies, food and drinks. The games students played were modeled off of television show games such as *25,000 Pyramid* and *Password*.

We are all looking forward to the next few years, when we plan to expand the event to offer more languages and more slots for teams to compete. This growth will, of course, depend upon the funding we can secure for the event and the availability of staffing. We have already begun to plan for next year and we

envision this event becoming part of Southern's presence in Connecticut as a center for world language study and a place where world languages are valued and celebrated.

It was truly a pleasure to see the excitement the students and their teachers felt coming to campus and participating in the games. We have received only positive feedback from the students and teachers who attended, as well as from the volunteers from our department who made the day possible. I would like to thank all of my colleagues in the Department of World Languages and Literatures as well as our excellent students who volunteered their free time on the first day of their summer vacation to help make this day a success! Thanks especially to Dr. Pina Palma for taking



“unofficial” pictures of the event and to Dr. Resha Cardone for volunteering to pick up and deliver food to the hungry highschoolers! And finally I would like to thank my committee members Dr. Luisa Piemontese, Dr. Lisa Vitale and Dr. Luke Eilderts with whom I worked tirelessly for months to make this day possible. We did a wonderful job and our hard work is much appreciated!

Dr. Christine Dombrowski
OWLS Committee Chair

The Second International Conference on Gabriel García

For the second year in a row, we have had the privilege to hold a conference on Gabriel García Márquez. This has been a magnificent event for our university. This year's "Gabriel García Márquez II: An Interdisciplinary and Transcultural Conference" celebrated together with the Departments of Mathematics, Philosophy, Political Science, Education, Library Science, and World Literatures and Languages.

We had two keynote speakers, each with vast international recognition: Dr. Gene H. Bell-Villada, from Williams College, whose literary research has touched the lives of thousands of students and colleagues in the United States and overseas, and Dr. Fan Ye, from Peking University, a translator/scholar whose translation of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* into Chinese

makes him the Gregory Rabassa of China. Dr. Fan Ye flew 23 hours to New York to give a keynote at our conference.

To quote attendee, Dr. Kuroghlian, "Bringing Dr. Fan Ye to SCSU was a major coup as his fame as a translator preceded his three language approaches to bringing Garcia Marquez to China was most interesting. Securing the services of Dr. Bell-Villada as one of the leading scholars on García Márquez was the diamond in the crown. He has spoken both at NCTE and MLA to great acclaim."

Six faculty presented papers on García Márquez from the perspective of their own disciplinary background: Dr. Maria Diamantis, Dr. Patricia Olney, Dr. Jacqueline Toce, Dr. David Pettigrew, Dr. Carlos Torre, and Dr. Rubén Pelayo. Dr.



Panelists: Dr. Hernandez, Dr. Pettigrew, Dr. Torre and Dr. Pelayo

Miaowei Weng interpreted both in English and Spanish for Dr. Fan Ye's presentation. Dean Breese gave the opening Remarks and Dr. Rubén Pelayo the closing remarks. Dr. Resha Cardone and Dr. Rafael Hernandez moderated the panels.

The kindness and thoughtfulness of Dr. Jian Wu and Nick Lemekha, Language Lab Assistant, as well as help from The Spanish Club made the "Gabriel García Márquez II: An Interdisciplinary and Transcultural Conference" a forum of enormous quality.

I am pleased to have served as director of this event. I envisioned it for a whole year. Dr. Miaowei Weng and I started negotiations with Dr. Fan Ye a year in

advance. It was truly a privilege to work together with such a fine group of intellectuals to honor the life and works of one of the world's best writers.

Dr. Rubén Pelayo



At Conference registration table:
Alessandra Paglia, Victoria Martins, and Christian Araujo



FRENCH SECTION NEWS

"Lumière profuse; splendeur. L'été s'impose et contraint toute âme au bonheur" -- André Gide
(Abundant light; splendor. Summer prevails and compels each soul to happiness.)

As we enter the summer season, we look back fondly on all the wonderful activities and events the French section hosted. Early in the fall we officially inaugurated a chapter of the Société d'Honneur Française (French National Honor Society), Pi Delta Phi. According to the organization's website, Pi Delta Phi is "the oldest academic honor society for a modern foreign language in the U.S.," and "was founded as a departmental honor society at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1906." Today, there are more than 370 chapters. Our chapter, named Omicron Psi, welcomed a number of regular and honorary members and the ceremony took place at Southern on the Green, the university's downtown presence in New Haven. High up on the 10th floor overlooking the Green, students, family, and faculty

enjoyed a selection of French meats and cheeses before and after the ceremony. Dr. Eileen Angelini, professor of French at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, officiated over the proceedings. The French section would again like to thank Steven Breese, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, as well as the Department of World Languages & Literatures for their generous support of the event.

In the spring, we performed a second induction ceremony for our chapter that was generously supported by the Cercle français. With a full spread of meats, cheeses, fruit, and even freshly made crêpes, it was a wonderful event to close out the 2015-2016 academic year. Rounding out the festivities, the Cercle français announced the results of its elections

for the executive committee. We wish them all the best for the upcoming year.

The Cercle français outdid itself this year with its regularly scheduled meetings, conversation table, bake sales, movie nights, and field trip to New York City to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art and see *An American in Paris* at the Palace Theater on Broadway. With such dedicated students, it is no surprise to hear that they are already planning next year's events! We look forward to participating in them.

Finally, we would like to express our most sincere thanks to two individuals who have left their mark on the French section: James "Jim" Garofolo and Dr. Nichole Gleisner. Jim has been teaching for the French section for over 10 years, and his tireless energy and contributions to the section have been invaluable. Always a team player, Jim would gladly help out where needed, whether it be taking on new classes or volunteering to help when another instructor was unable to teach. It has been a pleasure to work with him and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Nichole began working full-time at Southern in the fall of 2014. During that time, she has been a wonderful colleague and a strong contributing member not only of the section but also the department. Although she is not leaving Southern—she will continue to teach on a part-time basis—we are sad to see the change in status. That being said, Nichole continues to innovate in her teaching and scholarship, having taken on the task of developing new courses for the section. We look forward to many more years of collaboration.

Please direct any comments or questions to Dr. Luke L. Eilderts, Assistant Professor of French and Coordinator of the French Program (eilderts11@southernct.edu).



Dr. Luke Eilderts, Kanita Mote, Jessica Hartwell, Aaron Hyla, Larry Hall

Southern In Paris In 2015

For the trip of 2015, Dr. Eilderts directed a group of 17 eager students, and for the first time since the original program's creation, the trip was exclusively a French program, with nearly all of the students declared majors or minors.

France welcomed us last year with record heat: it topped out at 39 degrees Celsius, or about 102 degrees Fahrenheit on our first day and remained as hot for nearly four days. Despite the heat, students enjoyed all that Paris had to offer: the Centre Pompidou, the Basilica of Saint-Denis, the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the castle of Vaux-le-Vicomte, the palace of Versailles, Monet's gardens at Giverny... the list goes on and on. Thanks to a favorable exchange rate, we were able to add two wonderful events. One was a daytrip to Mont Saint Michel, about a five-hour drive northeast of the capital, and the second was an evening cruise on the Seine accompanied by a multi-course dinner aboard one of the famous Bateaux-Mouches.

To close, we'd like to share thoughts from some of the students in their own words:

Jason Mangles writes, "I am meeting Paris for the first time. I am noticing her buildings and her people and the way she softly speaks about how pretty the world is. She is an old soul, something that I am not used to. She tells me about her past, and after all of her problems and wars she has been able to work through all of that and keep her looks. I cannot wait to meet Paris some more."

Taylor Bird shares, "So far what has really struck me about this trip is the overall look and feel of the city. Seeing the buildings and scenery of Paris in textbooks doesn't do the real thing justice at all. Experiencing Paris firsthand I've really noticed the influence that history and tradition have on French culture."

Bruce Michaud explains, "I believe that the most straightforward observation and one that bears significant importance is that when we spent our first day walking around the city, I immediately felt a sense of comfort, like I was truly being embraced by the city with open arms. Even back home when I visit cities like New York City, there's always a feeling like I'm the bad guy or even worse, a feeling of what could be described as apathy, a lack of caring that you're even there... [In Paris] I am consistently greeted with a big smile and a genuine 'Bonjour monsieur!' from anyone I've had the good fortune of meeting"

Tichina Pemberton exclaims, "We've only been in Paris for about four full days and so far I have literally had the time of my life. I never knew how beautiful one place can truly be once you look past the superficial attractions such as the spectacular architecture and the phenomenal food. The one thing that has left the biggest impression on me thus far has to be how genuine, sincere and welcoming the people are."

Finally, the Paris program will be on hiatus for the 2016 season and will return July 2017. *Bon voyage !*



2015 Southern in Paris Group Picture



French major Katie Chevalier participated in this year's 2nd Annual Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference on Saturday, April 23rd at Adanti Student Center. Katie worked with Professor Gleisner on an independent project that explored different types of translation: she translated a poem by Baudelaire, an excerpt from a short story by a contemporary French author, and a scholarly article from a popular science magazine. She presented her efforts in a poster session during the morning session of the conference. Bravo Katie !
(Submitted by Dr. Nichole Gleisner)

GERMAN SECTION NEWS

As part of the ongoing revision of the German curriculum and shift to a more cultural studies oriented program, advanced courses offered over the past two semesters have directed their focus both on improving students' language and cultural proficiency using authentic cultural content and on reflecting students' interests on course content selection. Students this academic year explored: German-Turkish sociocultural integration through German film, the graphic novel and its explorations of 20th-century German history during the Cold War, as well as the concept of the "Metropolis" both in German history and modern German life. In the upcoming academic year, courses focusing on German for Reading Knowledge and Children's Literature are planned.

We have several students studying abroad this semester in Baden-Württemberg – Robin Stanley and Shelby Cox, who are also both majoring in German. This program remains central to our degree program and provides students with the opportunity to practice and improve their German proficiency while studying any number of additional subjects, including this year business, French, and linguistics. Southern CT State University is fortunate to be able to offer students of German a choice from over 13 universities when planning a semester or year abroad.

During the fall semester 2015 plans were discussed with the Business School for a Minor in Business German in conjunction with a new 5-year MBA program in International Business. This minor would include Beginning and Intensive Business German at Southern CT State University and a semester abroad followed by a 4-month internship in Germany through the University of Mannheim. Models for this program include the German for Engineers at UCONN.

Our German Club remains very active with weekly meetings run by students. As part of our meeting, students explore aspects of German language and culture which interest them. This year we learned about Nordic mythology, the Adidas and Puma rivalry, the origins of the Gugelhupf cake, and many other eclectic topics. As part of our annual charity we helped Southern departments and clubs collect non-perishable goods for the holiday food drive. During the spring semester 2016 students organized a dinner outing to the Old Heidelberg Restaurant in Bethel, CT. We also joined the social media world by creating a SCSU German Club Instagram account and Facebook page. I would like to thank our German students who, as German club officers, helped run the meetings and plan these events, including Jesse Gillis, Megan McNivens, Mary Griesbacker and Margaretta Affeldt.

Finally, I would like to thank Annemarie Geibel whose role as Beginning German instructor sets the foundation for our German program. Her enthusiasm for her students and for German studies carries over into the program. Vielen Dank, Annemarie!

Dr. Christine Dombrowski
Coordinator, German Section

German

ITALIAN SECTION NEWS



We in the Italian section had a busy and rewarding academic year. SCSU's Italian club, *Italianissimi*, had an active year of events, which included weekly gatherings, a Scopa Night, and a university pasta sale. Under the guidance of Professors LoLaico and Di Pietro, the club organized screenings of four internationally acclaimed Italian films: *Io sono Li*, *Mine Vaganti*, *Viva la Libertà*, and *The Legend of 1900*. The viewings were well attended by Southern students and faculty across disciplines. In the fall, Italianissimi showed off their culinary skills, which were featured on an SCSU TV segment for the cooking show "College Kitchen." Club members volunteered at the OWLS World Language Olympics hosted by the World Languages and Literatures Department at the end of the spring semester; Connecticut language students

representing twenty teams from high schools across the state competed for prizes in games having to do with Italian history and culture, over which student volunteers presided. We are very proud that for these efforts, SCSU's Italian Club received the 2016 Board of Clubs and Organizational Management Award from the Student Government Association, which the executive board accepted on behalf of the organization at the Annual Student Leadership Celebration. *Complimenti!*

For the annual SCSU Medieval Conference, the section hosted Prof. Jane Tylus, NYU, who spoke on "The Mystery of the Spedale: Hospitality in Late Medieval Siena"; Prof. Amy Remensnyder, Brown U, who presented "Modern Refugees, Pre-modern pirates and Muslim Christian Trust on the Island of Lampedusa"; and Prof. Susanna Barsella, Fordham U, who presented "Art and Paidea in the Comedia delle Ninfe Fiorentine." Both students and faculty at large took part in these stimulating talks.

We are proud to announce that our alumna, Annie Tullo, has accepted a position teaching Italian at Maloney High School in Meriden, Connecticut. *Congratulazioni, Annie!*

Participants in the 2015 SCSU summer study program in Tuscany spent four weeks in Montepulciano. Nestled on a hill between Val di Chiana and Valdorcia, this small medieval town – the backdrop for the Twilight Saga – welcomed our students studying Italian. During their stay, students enjoyed the celebrations for the 39th Cantiere



Internazionale d'Arte, a sixteen-day event that brought internationally renowned artists from the worlds of opera, prose, music, art, and multimedia to town. Over the course of these cultural events Southern students had the opportunity to interact with artists and watch their performances. In addition to visiting Florence and Siena, students spent time in Rome. There, they lived in Trastevere, a neighborhood famous for attracting young people from all over the world because of its artistic and social scenes, monuments, and vicinity to the Tiber. While in Rome, and in spite of the incredibly hot weather, students visited the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, the Vatican, piazza Venezia, Santa Sabina, and the Jewish Ghetto among other places. In Florence they experienced the city and its major monuments and paid a special visit to Michelangelo's David at the Accademia. Similarly, in Siena students had the opportunity to experience the city in all of its fascinating layers and visit the Duomo and the Museo dell'Opera. Some students also traveled to the Milan Expo in addition to Capri and Ischia. A new group of students will leave for the Montepulciano study abroad program, led by Professor Palma, at the end of June. *Buon viaggio, ragazzi!*

Danielle Sahni presented at the Second Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference on April 23, 2016, with a poster presentation entitled "EXPO Milano 2015: Bringing the World's Food Culture Together". Danielle carried out the research project for Professor Larkin's



ITA311 Contemporary Italian Culture course, drawing from her personal experience visiting the 2015 World's Fair while studying abroad in Montepulciano with Professor Palma in July 2015. *Brava, Danielle!*

Finally, we congratulate our graduating major, Jessica Cahill, as she moves on to the next chapter in her life. We also congratulate Italian minor, Jenè Thomas, a participant of SCSU Montepulciano 2015; this fall Jenè will begin her graduate studies at NYU in International Relations. *Auguri!*

While guiding their students in Italian, the professors also had a busy and productive academic year. Prof. Larkin presented her latest research on Pier Paolo Pasolini at the *18th Annual International Mediterranean Studies Association Congress* at the University of Athens, Greece, as well as the *International Association for the Study of Environment, Space and Place Conference "Mythical Places, Legendary Spaces"* hosted by SCSU. This June she will speak about

integrating mobile technologies in the language classroom at the American Association of Italian Studies Annual Conference in Naples, Italy. In January, Prof. Palma presented her latest research on Pulci at the Modern Language Association in Austin, TX. In March, she also presented her research on Boccaccio at the Renaissance Society of America in Boston, MA. This June she will speak at the American Association of Italian Studies on Elena Ferrante in Naples, Italy. Prof. Vitale organized a panel and presented her latest research on St. Catherine of Siena at the annual conference of the American Association for Teachers of Italian in Siena, Italy last June. In May, she presented a paper on women scribes at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI.

Dr. Pina Palma
Italian Section Coordinator



MA in Romance Language

The MA in Romance Languages continues to attract and support an energetic group of students. In 2015 and 2016, we have seen a substantial increase in the number of new students. Twelve students completed the application, ten students were accepted into the program and eight registered for graduate courses. Meanwhile, five students have successfully completed the program.

We have engaged in traditional local recruitment activities at the 2015 Annual conference of the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers, at the Graduate Open House at SCSU, among our undergraduate students, and so on. In addition, we have also sought to recruit international students at five Chinese universities. With strategic focusing of recruitment activities, we hope to attract a larger and more diverse student body.

New students will have opportunities to take one of the two core courses, WLL582, in the hybrid form. The same course can also be cross-listed with the advanced undergraduate literature course, LIT482. Outstanding undergraduate students have been strongly encouraged to register for one or two graduate level courses if they have no undergraduate courses available to take for their major. Graduate students are advised to sit in 400-level literature courses if they have registered for available graduate courses and desire to take more.

Thanks to the collaboration and contribution of our colleagues, a heated discussion on updating the MA reading list in Spanish was initiated in the first half of 2016 and hopefully will lead to a satisfactory result in the second half of 2016.

Dr. Miaowei Weng
Graduate Coordinator of the MA in Romance Languages Program

SPANISH SECTION NEWS

The Spanish Section has continued to grow gradually and steadily in the past year. New majors, some students who changed from a minor to a major, and at least a dozen more students who declared Spanish and Medical Spanish as a minor in the past year alone continue to make us optimistic about the health of the Spanish Program. Despite the challenges accentuated by the hiring freeze imposed by the Board of Regents this year, which resulted in a unfilled new position in Spanish, and the end of a two-year emergency position held by Professor Rodrigo Fuentes, we continue to do our best to meet the demand for Spanish language and culture instruction. With over forty classes of basic Spanish in the Fall of 2015 and thirty five in the Spring of 2016, as well as five upper-level classes each semester, plus a graduate seminar on the picaresque tradition and one on colonial Latin American literature, respectively, we remain committed to a variety of options for our majors, minors and all the students who choose Spanish as the language to fulfill their multilingual communication requirement. An exciting addition to our upper-level offerings was SPA 410 — Theory and Practice of Translation, a class developed by Professor Rafael Hernandez and offered this spring for the first time with great success.

During the last year, the Spanish Section organized several events such as the creative

writing workshop, “Taller de Cuento,” directed by Professor Fuentes in November. This workshop was so successful that Professor Fuentes agreed to direct a second one in March. In September, the Spanish Section, in collaboration with the Spanish Club, organized a Latin food taste, “Sabor de Lujo,” an opportunity for students to taste some Latin food; likewise, in November the section and the club organized a game night for Día de los Muertos and in March organized a “Martes de Carnaval,” a celebration of carnival in the Hispanic World. The Spanish Section was also pleased to participate in four major events in the spring, the interdisciplinary conference on Gabriel García Márquez, organized by Professor Rubén Pelayo, the Gala Night to commemorate the 25 years of the Spanish Program in Salamanca, Spain, organized by Professor Carlos Arboleda, the Latino Health Fair, organized by Dr. Luisa Piemontese and Ms. Sandra Caro, and the Olympics for World Languages.

Finally, after serving as Coordinator of the Spanish Section for two consecutive terms, Professor Rafael Hernandez has decided to step down. Professor Carlos Arboleda will be the next coordinator starting in the fall. Congratulations, Carlos!

Professor Rafael Hernandez
Spanish Section Coordinator



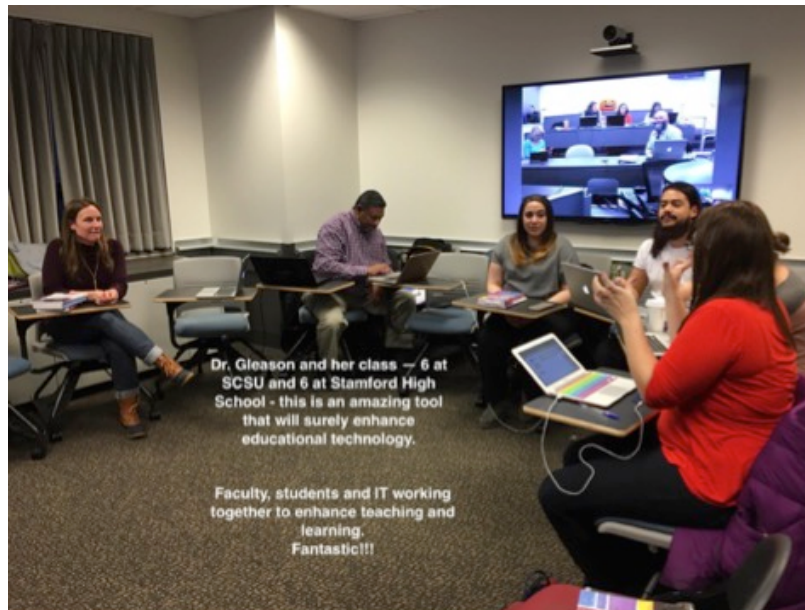
Spanish

TESOL PROGRAM NEWS

The MS TESOL Program is proud to announce the success of its first telecollaborative cohort, launched this past year. During Fall 2015 and Spring 2016, Dr. Elena Schmitt and Dr. Jesse Gleason *virtually* welcomed six students from Stamford Public Schools to campus using state-of-the-art teleconferencing technology across two courses: TSL 502 (Introduction to Linguistics) and TSL 503 (Second Language Acquisition). Students from these courses heralded the new distance and blended/hybrid course format as “saving time and energy,” “facilitating strong rapport with fellow classmates,” and “providing opportunities to learn new pedagogical technologies.” *(Submitted by Dr. Jesse Gleason, Assistant Professor of TESOL and Spanish)*



MS TESOL students (left to right): Ricardo Rodríguez, Mónica Concas, Jon Plaza and Caroline Johnson. On screen: Annalisa Denucci, Jen Panzer, Emily Shepherd, Linda Karpowitz and Sean Otterspoor.



MS TESOL distance cohort (left to right): Dr. Jesse Gleason, Ricardo Rodríguez, Mónica Concas, Jon Plaza, Caroline Johnson and Nicole Cassidy. On screen: Annalisa Denucci, Jen Panzer, Emily Shepherd, Linda Karpowitz and Sean Otterspoor.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION NEWS

There have been several program changes over the past academic year in the Foreign Language Certification program, including a revision and consolidation of courses required, transition to the Praxis Core for Educators tests, a change in ACTFL passing scores to Advanced Low, and a revision of the SCSU FLT Certification website, which now offers access to program documents and certification information for both Southern and the State of Connecticut. Course revisions made include consolidation of course content and elimination of hidden prerequisites, specifically of the previously required PSY 215 and PHI 370, each of which required several prerequisite courses. These course curricula have now been integrated into EDU 200 (replacing EDU 201) and a new EDU316 course. This obviously benefits our students greatly and allows them to complete our program within 120 credits.

With the new Praxis Core for Educators tests and a higher required score on the ACTFL tests, many students need proactive advising and guidance on how to prepare and attain passing scores on these required exams. First steps were taken this year to address the opportunities our students have to prepare for these tests. For the Praxis Core tests, several new options were offered, including tutoring through the English department, a pilot Math preparatory course offered through the School of Education, and “Guide to Passing the Praxis Core.” For the ACTFL tests, we have arranged access for our students to a language-intensive, immersion course through the *Colegio Delibes* in Salamanca, Spain. The course is designed specifically to address the ACTFL Proficiency guidelines. We have two students attending this program over Summer 2016.

For the upcoming year, Dr. Christine Dombrowski will continue to build a community of future world language teachers, which she started this year with the participation in CT COLT’s Honor Society of Future Teachers of World Languages. This opportunity allows our students to be part of CT COLT, and the larger community of world language teachers across the state, as well as to benefit and participate in professional development opportunities, a key to their future professional success. Professor Dombrowski would now like to build a community on campus by forming a new SCSU Club for Future Teachers of World Languages. Through this club, our FLT Certification students will find support from their peers in the program and have the opportunity to participate in a forum to share their experiences, find support and get advising as they pursue their studies and certification, as well as model the collegiality and professionalism expected of educators.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our graduates and program completers including Michelle Martino and Eliza Caldwell. Michelle Martino also was awarded the Irene Stanislawczyk Scholarship by CT COLT, an award designated for “an undergraduate pursuing a degree in world languages and teacher education.” We wish Michelle and Eliza the best in their future careers and know that they will help shape future students of Spanish by sharing their passions and talents in the classroom. Congratulations Michelle and Eliza!

Dr. Christine Dombrowski
Foreign Language Certification Program Coordinator

Chinese Club Events

In the past year, the SCSU Chinese club continued its tradition, and successfully sponsored and organized the Chinese New Year and Moon Festival celebrations for the campus community. It also held two cultural events, the Chinese Movie Night in Fall Semester and the New York City New and Old China Towns Trip. Both events were successful and received positive comments from participants. *(Submitted by Dr. Jian Wu, Faculty Advisor of SCSU Chinese Club)*



2016 Year of the Ram Celebration



2015 Chinese Moon Festival



New York Trip – Confucius Statue in China Town



New York Trip – Chinese Scholar's Garden

LANGUAGE LAB NEWS

Like all previous years, this past year has continued to witness many new and exciting applications of new technology in the lab and language classes. To start with, our application for a Google Classroom account was officially approved by Google, and we can now set up Google Classrooms for our language classes. This is particularly significant for classes using the iPad lab since applications in Google Classroom are iPad-friendly and efficient. Several classes, such as the French 301 class, taught by Professor Gleisner, and the German 100 class, taught by Professor Dombrowski, used Google Classroom in the iPad lab with great success and had valuable experiences to share.

Thanks to a Curriculum Development Grant, Professor Luisa Piemontese and Professor Jian Wu have been working on the Spanish Pronunciation Modules. The first part of the project is now complete and we will be finishing the second part of the project over the summer. Our plan is to start using the modules in the Fall semester in our Spanish 100 classes. These modules will also be iPad-

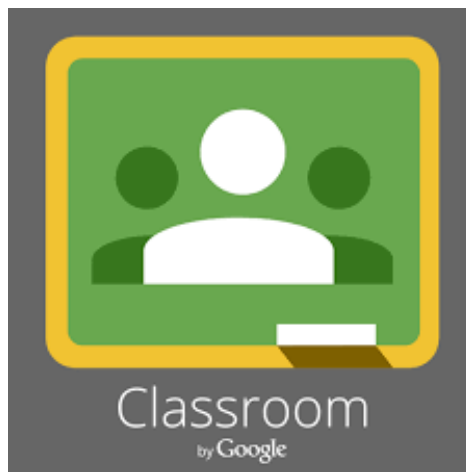
friendly and efficient, and it would be ideal to use them in our iPad labs.

To make things even more exciting, we have used the lab fees funds to purchase 27 new state-of-the-art iPad Pros with Smart Keyboards. We will set up this new iPad Pro lab in the summer and get it ready to be used in the Fall.

Other popular tools used in language classes include the Green Screen, iMovie videos, SchoolShape, Lingt, Glogster, Quizlet, Quia, VoiceThread, BlueJeans, BB Learn 9 the Kaltura Media Tool, the Discussion Forum and Wikipages.

We are ready to meet new opportunities and challenges in the coming year, and provide guidance and support to teachers and students in their use of modern technology to enhance, improve and transform language teaching and learning.

Dr. Jian Wu
Language Lab Director



For questions or comments, please contact Dr. Jian Wu at wuj4@southernct.edu, Dr. Miaowei Weng at wengm2@southernct.edu or Dr. Jesse Gleason at gleasonj8@southernct.edu