Greetings to all, near and far!

Welcome to our LLC Newsletter, designed to give you snapshots of the latest happenings in LLC. If you want to learn more about anything within, please feel free to contact us individually (contact information within and on our website), at our department email language@albany.edu, by phone 518-442-4222 or drop by the office (Humanities 235) in person. I’ll quickly highlight a few items below, but I hope you’ll have a few moments to peruse the following pages for the details and other news.

Congratulations to all of our spring and summer graduates! LLC faculty and staff wish you all the best and every success as you move on to the next chapter in your life, whether it be in graduate coursework, a ‘dream job,’ or just relaxation. We share your joy and excitement, remembering our own commencements and those of many other language students who have gone before you. Please know that we really enjoy hearing from all our graduates about your successes and challenges, journeys and opportunities, so drop us a line every now and again to keep us updated. Let us know how we can help and if you can be a resource to students coming up behind you, let us know.

Congratulations also to all of this year’s scholarship awardees (list within). These students all excelled in their studies both inside and outside of LLC and were recognized at our commencement ceremony and in the university’s commencement program. Our special thanks goes to the many friends of LLC who donate funds to make these scholarships possible, and who, through their contribution, recognize and reward these students’ hard work. Your generous commitment helps us pass on to the next generation our shared LLC values and is a source of encouragement for them.

We welcome to our teaching staff this fall lecturers Charles Giglio (Latin) and Dora Ramirez (Spanish) who will both be teaching in LLC and also be serving as University in the High School liaisons as well as Regine Ananou (French). In addition, we are delighted to share that Denise Osborne accepted our full-time lecturer position in Portuguese and will be continuing to enhance our Portuguese Program. Charles Giglio is replacing Angela Commito, who began a 3-year VAP position starting this fall at Union College, and Dora Ramirez is replacing Aida Torres-Horwitt, who retired this summer after more than twenty years of service to the Spanish Program. Also in August, Amber Stephens retired after serving as our Russian-speaking LLC secretary for more than 30 years. We wish each of them the best.

Faculty are life-long learners—it’s in our nature—and we hope you are too. We’re always asking questions, exploring new research areas, sharing ideas, developing new courses and changing the curricula to meet evolving student needs and interests. This year we’re lining up another great invited speaker series and a number of film series and cultural...

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LLC continuously fine-tunes its course curricula to best meet the needs of our current students. Faculty make this happen in a variety of ways including continuously mining their research areas for new findings and incorporating these in the classroom, searching for improvements to incorporate into their coursework by choosing new textbooks and materials as better ones become available or by creating materials themselves, staying attuned to national and international trends to help students stay ahead of the curve, and developing new course offerings to meet identified needs. This fall we are offering two new courses. POR150, Portuguese for Spanish Speakers, is particularly designed for those students of Spanish who would like to learn Portuguese and because of their advanced Spanish coursework already have a good grasp on similar grammar and vocabulary so are well positioned to take an accelerated Portuguese course. SPN105, Spanish for Bilinguals I, is especially designed with students who come from bilingual homes and may not fit well in traditional classes. While the Spanish Program has been offering SPN205, Spanish for Bilinguals II, we have found an increasing number of students who have more basic needs in formal Spanish education. This new course helps these students shore up their Spanish reading and writing skills and enhance their speaking ability and comfort level to be on track with other students in the program who have received formal Spanish education. Building on skills students already have and affirming and reinforcing their abilities to progress enhances the classroom experience and is just one part of how LLC benefits UAlbany students.

Professor Carmen Serrano presented "Why Diversity Matters" to the Brown School Board of Trustees in Schenectady, NY on March 15. She shared her own experience as a high school student in Los Angeles and the positive effects of having been exposed to a diverse body of teachers. She also spoke about her own efforts to promote diversity in higher education and encouraged the board to form a focus group to reflect on the benefits and challenges of diversity. For those interested, Professor Serrano recommends several resources including “How Diversity Makes Us Smarter” http://www.sciencemag.org/content/why-diversity-matters and “Why Diversity Matters” http://www.columbia.edu/content/why-diversity-matters.html.

LLC faculty, graduate students and family have been enjoying soccer games since late spring with the newly formed LLC Soccer Club. The club plans to meet in fall while the weather is agreeable and hopes to start again as the weather improves in spring. E-mail Leo Correa jlcorrea@albany.edu, Luis Cuesta lcuesta@alabny.edu or Lotfi Sayahi lsayahi@albany.edu if you’d like to join in. Check Facebook and LLC’s website for information about upcoming meeting dates.
LLC welcomed internationally known Brazilian music conductor and scholar Dr. Isaac Chueke to UAlbany in February 2016. Dr. Chueke has a PhD in Music from the Sorbonne and is currently a faculty member at the Escola de Música e Belas Artes do Paraná in Brazil. He has conducted orchestras around the world, is the founder of various international festivals in Brazil, the United States and France and has worked on various musical pieces with Professor Max Lifchitz of UAlbany’s Department of Music. His presentation, “Brazilian Rhythms – Traits of a Rich Culture,” discussed the impact of linguistics on music and how the manner and tone with which Brazilians speak is represented in the rhythm of their music, showing that these are not separate from daily life. Attendees heard an eclectic mix of Brazilian music that revealed elements of classical string and African-influenced drum beats. The linguistic and rhythmic influences of these cultures are what give Brazilian music its unique sound. Orchestral music mimicking sounds typically heard in traditional Brazilian music is commonly used to represent the culture and appears in many genres of classical music. This program was made possible with additional support from the Center for International Education and Global Strategy, the Department of Latin American, Caribbean and US Latino Studies and the Department of Music and Theater.

A concert and lecture on Russian Cossack folk music was held for students of Professor Timothy Sergay’s ARUS162, “Contemporary Russia,” and the UAlbany community on February 23, 2016, in HU354. Performing and lecturing in Russian were Yuri Shcherbakov, an ethnic Cossack from the upper Don region, and his wife, Natalia Shcherbakova, an ethnographer. Professor Timothy Sergay interpreted in real time for attendees. The two performed traditional Cossack folk songs, both acapella and accompanied by the button accordion. Yuri’s introductory remarks focused on the warlike upbringing of Cossack boys, including downright violent games of “street versus street” group mêlées and slap-ducking contests, which he invited the audience to try out right in the auditorium. He described a fortune-telling ritual for Cossack toddlers in which each little boy is placed on a saddled horse. If he teeters in the saddle, this is taken as an omen of death in battle as an adult. If he grabs the horse’s mane or the horn of the saddle and manages to keep himself upright, he will survive and win martial honor. Yuri’s answer to the question of where the Cossacks came from indicates that ethnographers have reached no real conclusions about this despite years of research. He himself prefers to say, half-jokingly, “the Cossacks come from their forbearers!” They are a distinctive people within a people—the broader Russian nation (for an introduction to the ethnography of the Cossacks, read Leo Tolstoy’s novel The Cossacks, published in 1863). Genres of songs that Yuri demonstrated included: the “protiazhnaia” (drawn-out, protracted, melismatic) traditional mournful folk song, the wedding song, and the Cossack romance. The manufacture of button accordions such as the one Yuri demonstrated was stepped up in the Soviet Union during World War II as a matter of government policy, because their use in the Red Army raised morale. The upstate New York appearance of the duo was organized by the New Russia Cultural Center of Albany, which coordinated with Professor Sergay for the concert/lecture at UAlbany. The duo also gave performances on February 25 at Café Nola in Schenectady and at the New Russia Cultural Center’s Eighth Annual Winter Festival on February 27 at the Polish Community Center on the Washington Avenue extension.
LLC’s spring 2016 seminar series kicked off with “Lost and Found: French in Western Ohio,” in which Professor Cynthia Fox described how the discovery of an article by William Marion Miller published in the French Review in 1946 led to a project to investigate a little-known former French enclave undertaken with her colleague Deborah Piston-Hatlen of Indiana University. In the article, Professor Miller describes a small area formed by three towns (Versailles, Frenchtown and Russia) in Darke County, Ohio, populated by descendants of immigrants who came to the US from eastern France between 1830 and 1850. Fox and Piston-Hatlen were surprised to discover that, at the time of the article’s publication, many residents were still speaking French. Since most varieties of North American French can be traced back to one of three early settlements (Acadia [present-day Maritime Provinces] in 1605, New France [Quebec] in 1608, and Louisiana in 1682), they were delighted to learn that Professor Miller had made recordings of this “well-preserved peasant French” and intrigued by the idea that they might be able to locate the recordings and better document a unique and now obsolescent North American variety of the language. While Fox and Piston-Hatlen have yet to find the missing tapes, their search has uncovered ample evidence that the French presence in western Ohio continues today in the form of a close-knit community that is aware of and interested in its historical origins. Remnants of the language are present in the names of businesses, symbols such as the fleur de lis appear on signage, and, in one town park, an astonishing miniature replica of the Arc de Triomphe is adorned with images that commemorate the journey from France and the early history of the community. In the recently renovated Versailles town square, memorial bricks are inscribed with the same French surnames that appear among the numerous family histories archived at the Worch Memorial Public Library and the Darke County Genealogy Society. These materials, which include information about who was speaking French and for what purposes, help to construct a basic timeline of the linguistic evolution of the community and its gradual shift to English monolingualism. Further, more focused research is needed to discover what elements of their French heritage (other than the tradition of eating sauerkraut at the new year cited by many residents) continue in local customs. In the conclusion of her presentation, Professor Fox drew parallels between the situation in Darke County and that of the many other French heritage communities in the United States that are the subject of the recent documentary Un Rêve Américain directed by Bruno Boulianne. The film underscores both the weight of the French presence in North America, and how the French contribution has been largely overlooked in our country’s narrative.
This spring LLC faculty Alejandra Aguilar, Luis Cuesta, and Carmen Serrano and graduate student Jonathan Oliveri coordinated Hispanic Movie Nights with support from LLC and a University Auxiliary Services Creating Highly Engaging Educational Resources (CHEER) grant. The three films shown (Altiplano, Ocho apellidos vascos, Relatos salvajes) embody the skill of storytelling from the cultural perspective of locals living in Argentina, Peru and Spain. These films were specifically chosen to expose viewers to diverse accents, dialects and cultures found in Spanish-speaking countries and for their ability to accurately represent Hispanic culture and the struggle for survival in unstable economic or political environments found in contemporary Latin America and Spain. An open discussion in Spanish followed each film, allowing students and guests to practice Spanish speaking skills and engage in candid conversation on genuine issues represented in each film while reiterating that the film medium can be representative of and speak to cultural identity. As the leading character, Saturnina, said in Altiplano, “Without an image, there is no story,” reminding us all of the power of the image to proclaim social justice, inclusiveness, and social equality.

Denise Osborne (POR) shared, “Through a joint effort between the Portuguese Program faculty, students and the Luso-Brazilian community in Albany and surrounding areas, we initiated Era Uma Vez (Once Upon a Time) this spring. The goal was to help children whose parents are from Portuguese-speaking countries develop their Portuguese vocabulary and gain appreciation and knowledge of Luso-Brazilian culture. Six successful meetings exclusively held in Portuguese exposed children to folk tales, children’s books, traditional children’s songs and Luso-Brazilian games. Alexandra Dias, a student of Portuguese descent, played a traditional Portuguese game with the children that she learned from her parents, O Jogo das Orelhas (The Ear Game). Reece Williams and Jovaun Buchanan, both members of the UAlbany basketball team who also take Portuguese, had fun playing Monkey in the Middle (Macaco no Meio) with the children. It was impressive to see students new to Portuguese language adapting traditional games from their own cultures into Portuguese. Mitchell Hura, for instance, played Simon Says (Simão diz), Alanis Gouvea Peek-a-boo, I see you (Eu Vejo), and Ominayzha Alexander played Duck, Duck, Goose (Pato, Pato, Ganso). Each meeting had a different theme, the first being Africa Day. Nádia Abreu, a graduate student from Angola, told African folk tales and showed the children a traditional dance from Africa. On Music Day, Tarcício Ramos, a Brazilian musician, brought various Brazilian instruments to the meeting and taught the children how to play them. On Capoeira Day, UAlbany’s Capoeira Club gave a fun workshop, demonstrating to the children how to practice capoeira. Nine year old Fernanda taught an Afro-Brazilian dance she learned from her mother and with his father’s help. Eight year old Diego provided a demo on how to play soccer. The children were very enthusiastic, actively participating at each event. In an anonymous end-of-semester survey, my Portuguese students expressed their enthusiasm post-project, with notes such as, “I like that I was able to have a conversation with people in Portuguese” and “It adds excitement to learning Portuguese.” The survey also disclosed strong support from the parents of all the children who participated. For example, “An excellent program. I am so happy that this project exists so my daughter can learn Portuguese here in Albany” and “Wonderful initiative. This is very important in order to help children maintain their interest in the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture.” We are very grateful to UAlbany’s University Auxiliary Services CHEER Fund for their financial support. In fall, we hope to continue this project which offers Portuguese students a stimulating applied learning experience and opportunities for public engagement. For more information about the project, visit: https://sites.google.com/site/eraumavezalbany/home.”
Alumni Gatherings

Have you recently met up with a former classmate/old friend form UAlbany? Share your story! Send it to language@albany.edu

“On a fateful day during the “Back to School” week at Ecole Internationale de New York (EINY) in August 2014, Adela and I discovered a major common denominator in our lives: we both took French classes with Madame Brière at SUNY Albany from 1992-1997! The influence of having studied the French language, Francophone cultures and literature through Madame Brière in college has shaped us both in unimaginably, unique ways and has led us to live our “passion.” It is no coincidence that we both arrived at this French school in this wonderful French environment.

Previously, Adela worked as a French teacher at Hunter College Elementary School as well as other NYC public schools. In 2014, Adela was hired as a 3rd grade teacher in a French-English bilingual education classroom at EINY. She shares her love of poetry with her students by inviting poets to work in-house with our students and encouraging students to present in local poetry festivals. I worked as a French teacher for fourteen years and as Department Chair of World Languages for nine of those years at the York Preparatory School in Manhattan. In 2014, I was hired as the Deputy Head of School at EINY. We did not know each other at SUNY Albany, but became acquainted one and half years ago when we both began our positions at EINY. EINY is a French-American bilingual school that serves Nursery – 8th grade students.

Madame Brière’s thank you note stated, ‘Many thanks for inviting me to EINY where I was delighted to get a glimpse of the wonderful work you are doing. It was immensely rewarding for me to see former students engaged in work they love while making an important contribution to the development of youngsters in their care. The Francophone Festival was impressive from the little choral singers of the opening ceremony to the array of Francophone countries for which the students acted as little ambassadors with such aplomb! Thank you for including me in the Festival… it is because of your thoughtfulness that twenty years after having had you both in class, I now have a sense of where a UAlbany foundation in French can lead when it is used to the fullest!’”

CALLING ALL ALUMNI: Where do you see opportunities for internships or community engagement for language students and grads? Send us an e-mail: language@albany.edu.
Intercultural Language Learning Through Video Production

“Kisses on the cheek when you are introduced to someone, clapping your hands at your friend’s door to see if they are at home, taking an electric shower, knowing your friends by their nickname and having no idea what their surnames are - these cultural practices may sound strange to you, but they are examples of everyday life in Brazil. There’s more to learning a foreign language than learning how to conjugate a verb! The process of language acquisition includes development of intercultural competence, such as helping students to be open to a new cultural experience. Portuguese students familiarizing themselves with cultural aspects that are more subjective and less obvious is a challenge for Portuguese instructors, especially in areas where access to the Luso-Brazilian community is limited. In order to help UAlbany Portuguese students develop their intercultural competence, Professor Salbego, a PhD student at Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina and an English instructor at Instituto Federal de Santa Catarina in Brazil, joined me in a project involving the exchange of intercultural video productions among American students of Portuguese at UAlbany and Brazilian students of English in Brazil. The goal was to provide Portuguese learners in the US and English learners in Brazil opportunities for the co-operative exchange of language skills. Students created and narrated videos in their respective target languages showing aspects of their own culture to the target audience. The videos were then presented and discussed in class where students provided feedback in the target language (some examples can be viewed here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGv7jHzcGAA, www.youtube.com/watch?v=oj7ypLrQgA&feature=youtube, and www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZaWjNMyTsl&feature=youtube). At the end of the semester, Salbego and I conducted a survey, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback. Among the outcomes, critical reflection became a powerful tool in helping learners understand and appreciate the target culture as well as their own culture. Our intent is to extend this institutionally approved research project into upcoming semesters to conduct research focusing on student perception of intercultural competence. We hope that in the near future we are going to be able to share this project with other Portuguese instructors who may be facing similar challenges of limited opportunities for Portuguese students to interact in authentic environments with a focus on intercultural competence.”

Denise Osborne
Portuguese Lecturer

French Immersion

Véronique Martin enlisted the help of French colleagues to coordinate Minds On – En France, an immersive, interactive workshop in French that teaches students from grades nine through twelve about French language and culture. “We work primarily with 11th and 12th graders since this workshop is designed for advanced students of French. Activities such as going through customs, Jeopardy of the Francophone world, hands-on French meal preparation and an afternoon show with skits and ads fully in French all help students strengthen their language skills.” Martin, who began participating in this program in 2001, shared, “Minds On was created to provide local students with unique learning opportunities not available through the schools. For En France, we create a unique learning environment where they connect and interact with native speakers from various Francophone areas, in order to put in practice and build on the linguistic and cultural knowledge they’ve learned at school. The most rewarding part for us is to see them evolve through the day as they gradually become accustomed to the Francophone environment and wish the whole experience was longer when they leave.” Minds On was founded in 1983 and serves the community at large by offering workshops that give young students early exposure to real life scenarios in areas such as history, languages, math, science, social studies and writing. For more about Minds On, see: www.mindson.org/.

Bottom row, left to right: Komla Amegashie, Véronique Martin, Hélène Pafundi of French Studies and Fred Meni of the Center for Language and International Communication with students.

Hélène Pafundi of French Studies demonstrates how to make a French dessert
Russian Olympiada

On April 20 the twentieth annual Olympiada of Spoken Russian took place at the UAlbany Campus Center. The Olympiada is part of a national program administered by the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR). Each year dedicated student olympians from area high schools, who practice their Russian-language skills and cultural savvy all year for this moment participate.

Students and their teachers arrive from a variety of schools, gathering at the Campus Center. They wait anxiously outside the room, chatting excitedly, for their turn to converse in Russian with unfamiliar judges and show their skills. Winning the competition is a great honor acknowledging their hard work and their teacher’s, and allows them to compete at the next level, ultimately for a chance to win a trip to Russia. Competitors fidget as they wait to be called in. Each is called three times. The room, arranged with multiple stations and judges, separated by levels and three skill areas (spoken language, civilization, and reading), is abuzz with Russian, the only language spoken. The tension among the students is palpable as they enter and compete, with a wave of relief as they complete that portion and are dismissed. Some withdraw smiling nervously, others amble off deep in thought. Their teachers hover outside encouraging and keeping track of who still needs to compete. Then finally there’s a break, time for contestants to take a breath and time for the judges’ scores to be tallied.

In the next portion finalists face five judges at once—several are native speakers, one a professor of Russian. What will they ask? What if I don’t understand? What if words fail me? The competitors’ faces shine with enthusiasm, nerves and the heat of the moment. Despite the pressure and excitement, they perform very well. The judges are friendly, reassuring, and tickled to see enthusiastic young Russianists. Another break. Decisions are made and all gather in the large Campus Center Assembly Hall for the announcement of the winners. The hall erupts with applause, everyone is congratulated, photos capture the occasion, and happy farewells are made for another year.

While fewer high schools offer Russian, there are still four in our region that regularly send students to this event: Shaker, Staten Island Tech, Tamarack and West Babylon. Professor Timothy Sergay of LLC’s Russian program, who coordinates the hosting of this event at UAlbany, applauds each of these schools for their continued dedication to the language and the instructors for their great passion in sharing it with young people. Professor Sergay and LLC congratulate all this year’s finalists and wish them the best in their continued studies.

First-place winners

Level I
I: Sabrina Gambino of State Island Technical High School (SITHS)
II: Shuan Heng Wang of Shaker

Level II
I: Merrick Eng of SITHS
II: Matthew Fine of SITHS

Level III
I: Lucy Primiano of SITHS
II: Tiffany Liu of Shaker

Level IV
I: Suzanna Diehl of Shaker
II: Emily Brzac of Shaker

Level V
I: Marianna Lansing of Shaker
II: Sophia Cassabone of Shaker

First-place Heritage Learners category
I: Xenia Rudchenko of SITHS
II: Shon Shmushkevich of SITHS

Second-place Regular category finalists
Finalist: Suzanna Diehle of Shaker
Runner-up: Emily Brzac of Shaker

Second-place Heritage Learners category finalist
Xenia Rudchenko of SITHS
This March’s annual Francophone Day event celebrated international French culture and language. Campus faculty, staff and students hosting the event represented Francophone cultures from around the world including France, Haiti, Senegal, Togo and Canada. These individuals afforded glimpses into their own cultures, a variety of natively-spoken French dialects, and different perspectives and worldviews, making the day a particularly powerful diversity engagement process for students as well as their accompanying teachers. Sharing French cultures with high school students is an increasingly important community outreach and educational endeavor provided by UAlbany’s French Program as many schools increase their science and technology offerings, but provide fewer resources to their humanities curricula. High school teachers welcome this free opportunity for their students to have a special Francophone immersion experience and also enjoy the immersion experience themselves. Congratulations to Guilderland High School for winning this year’s Concours de Desserts competition. As always, LLC very much appreciates all the volunteers involved and thanks the UAlbany Campus Center staff for helping make this a successful event.

Pi Delta Phi welcomes Jessica Féquière and Brianna Caddle (2nd and 3rd from left) for their induction into the National French Honors Society.

Sigma Delta Pi welcomes (from left) Lindsey Taber, Nasibah Elmi, Tayana Mason, Magdalis Mendoza, Morgan Hays, Kaylyn Olivera, Annalise Haberman, Janice Lau and Jenny Barranco
LLC congratulates all 2016 graduates on their academic achievement and wishes them every success!

Special recognition goes to this year’s scholarship awardees:

Eleanor Bazzoni 1906 Fellowship Award
Michael Kriesberg & Oyenike Ilaka

Frank Carrino Memorial Scholarship
Luke Gregory

Guy A. Enfanto Memorial Award for Excellence
Joselynn Myers

Anthony M. Gisolfi Memorial Award
Katarina Spero

Teaching Assistant Excellence Award
Cecily Corbett and Nyssa Knarvik

Thanks to Spanish alumnus Greg Jabaut for giving this year’s commencement address.

For more commencement pictures:
www.facebook.com/uallc
Capoeira Club president Eng-Wen Ong (left) and Portuguese Lecturer Denise Osborne (2nd from left) with Portuguese students from UAlbany and Skidmore College at the first **Brazilian breakfast meet up** at Café Dali Mamma in Albany where a Brazilian menu was specially provided for the occasion. More gatherings are planned. If interested contact Denise Osborne (dmosborne@albany.edu).

From left to right, **Italian Club** board representing La Dolce Vita at UAlbany’s Cultural Carnival held in April: Chris Battista (President), Alessia DeCecco (Vice-President), Thomas Lennon (Treasurer), Joseph Spano (Secretary).

The **Portuguese Language Club** (Denise Osborne, club faculty advisor, middle) hosted a panel discussion in April to discuss current issues in Brazil related to economic and social change. Pablo Carvalho, PhD candidate at RPI (left) presented “The Good, The Bad and the Ugly,” a paper highlighting Brazilian economic inefficiencies and opportunities. Fulbright Scholar, Fernanda Burgath (right) who is the Portuguese instructor at the College of Saint Rose presented “Brazilian Soap Operas, the Public and Contemporary Society,” discussing the impact of soap operas on social change. Events such as these help cultivate a cultural perspective for foreign language students, and a better understanding of political and social issues in Brazilian society.

**Deutsche Kaffeestunde (German Table)**  
Undine Giguere  
ugiguere@albany.edu

**El Club de Español (Spanish Club)**  
Cristina M. Liriano Cepin  
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**Le Cercle français (French Club)**  
Véronique Martin  
martinv49@gmail.com

**La Dolce Vita (Italian Club)**  
Maria Keyes  
mgkeyes@albany.edu

**La Pause café (French Table)**  
Cynthia Fox  
cfox@albany.edu

**The Portuguese Language Club**  
Denise Osborne  
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**Soccer Club**  
Leonardo Correa jlcorrea@albany.edu,  
Luis Cuesta leustea@alabny.edu or  
Lotfi Sayahi lsayahi@albany.edu

**UAlbany Tango Club**  
Jonathan Augustin  
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**UAlbany Capoeira**  
Eng-Wen Ong  
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**El Club de Español**  
As part of their service commitment at UAlbany, the Spanish Club hosted its annual final exam review session. These sessions help majors and students taking Spanish courses prepare for final exams and provide club members hands-on experience tutoring foreign language students.
French minor Evan Maniotis graduated this summer and will travel to France to participate in the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF). “For seven months, I will be in Nantes, France to help students at various grade levels with their English. My main goal for participating in this program, is to gain native fluency in French and to be independent. I’ve done studies and a few externships/internships but I’ve never done anything that I could claim as work experience. With this opportunity, a diplomatic internship with the French Embassy, I have a good stepping stone. I’ve studied French for almost ten years and always had this feeling that all I needed was an opportunity to speak it on a daily basis. This will the first time I’ll be going abroad for a whole school year and I’m hoping that by the end I’ll have far more comfort in the language. I look forward to having to do so many things in French—looking for an apartment, opening my own bank account, shopping for groceries and cooking on my own! I would love to get a job with the UN, something that involves languages, communicating with people. I just want to do things with language. If I can get a job that includes that, great, and if not, languages are pretty helpful to have for any job applicant. If I can’t get my dream job, I still have this sort of hobby, this interest in language that I can foster outside of whatever job I have.”

Graduate Student News

Farah Ali, who joined LLC as a graduate teaching assistant this fall, has a short story being published in an anthology titled One Hundred Voices (Centum Press, release date: September 23, 2016). The story is titled “The Colleague.”

Graduate students traveled with Professor Lotfi Sayahi to San Juan, Puerto Rico to present their research findings at the 8th Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics in April hosted by the University of Puerto Rico. The conference, which was started by our department in Albany in 2001, is now one of the leading meetings in Spanish linguistics. UAlbany had strong participation as usual at this meeting. Professor Lotfi Sayahi and graduate students Cecily Corbett and Juanita Reyes presented “The Use of the Present Perfect in NY Dominican Spanish.” Graduate student Leo Correa presented a poster “La africación de la oclusiva velar sorda /k/ en el español de Bogotá.” Two alumni of UAlbany's Spanish Program also made presentations, Patrick Lawrence (now at UT Austin) and Sherez Mohamed (now at Florida State University).

Congratulations to Cecily Corbett for having received the 2016 Dissertation Research Fellowship Award. The award helps graduate students pay for fees associated with information access, supplies and equipment and travel expenses related to compiling and completing dissertation research. Corbett along with graduate student Juanita Reyes and Professor Lotfi Sayahi published an article in a special issue of the Spanish journal Camino Real that was dedicated to Spanish in the United States. The article is titled: “El español en los Estados Unidos: panorama de estudios sociolingüísticos.”


Jonathan Oliveri wrote a book review for The Discourse of Flanerie in Antonio Muñoz Molina’s Texts by Richard Sperber (Bucknell University Press, 2015). The review will appear in the March 2017 110.1 edition of Hispania. He also wrote a review for the following documentaries; Gabo, la magia de lo real, a film by Justin Webster memorializing the writing career of Gabriel García Márquez and ¡Fusílenos la noche! a film by Tina Leisch on poet Roque Dalton. Both film reviews will appear in the September 2016 993.3 edition of Hispania. In summer Oliveri was a Visiting Research Scholar at Instituto Franklin of Universidad de Alcalá de Henares in Madrid, Spain.
Faculty News

LLC is delighted to announce that Denise Osborne has accepted the new full time lecturer position in Portuguese and will be responsible for promoting the Portuguese Program. She plans to energize and expand the Portuguese Program by, among other things, introducing two new courses: Portuguese for Speakers of Spanish in the fall and Brazilian Popular Culture (taught in English) in the spring. In addition, she plans to have at least two speakers this coming year: A Brazilian musician who is an expert on Brazilian popular music and a graduate student who spent a year in Brazil studying the Zika virus. She also plans to work with her students of Portuguese in various events promoted by the Portuguese Language Club, Português Com Café, and Era Uma Vez, a project involving students of Portuguese and children from the Portuguese-speaking community in our area (see more details in article within). It promises to be an exciting year! também aprender português!

Graduate Student News

Graduate student Arnaldo Robles accepted an Assistant Professor position at Shenandoah University where he will teach beginning, intermediate, and advanced courses starting this fall. “It will be my first time living in Virginia, which I am really looking forward to. What I hope to accomplish is to keep gaining teaching experience, teaching a variety of courses and to keep developing professionally as a Spanish professor. To my fellow grad students I say, ‘Keep working on your projects. Work and research every day and every moment you have.’ To the LLC faculty, ‘Thank you for providing me a chance to acquire the skills and knowledge I have gained during my time here!’”

Welcome! ¡Bienvenido! Bienvenue! Benvenuto! Willkommen! Baruch Haba! Dobro Pozhalovat! Ahlan Wa Sahlan! Bem Vinda! Salvê!

Regine Ananou, who holds a maîtrise Langues Étrangères Appliquées en anglais et espagnol from the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail, France, joins us teaching French this fall. Her areas of interest include the fundamental components of language arts: listening, reading, speaking, and writing. She hopes to work with students on extra-curricular activities to facilitate their acquisition of a second language. She comes to us from Salisbury University in Maryland and plans to be engaged in local activities to promote teaching and learning of modern languages.

Charles Giglio holds an MS in Bilingual and Urban Education from Long Island University and an MS in Secondary Education from CUNY. He is a recent retiree of Gloversville High School and was a recipient of the 2015 New York State Teacher of the Year award. We look forward to having him teach for LLC.

Dora Ramírez, LLC’s newly appointed Spanish lecturer and the new University in the High School Spanish Liaison. Ramírez graduated from UAlbany in 2007 with a PhD in Hispanic Studies. Her areas of interest include Spanish sociolinguistics, Spanish in the US, second language acquisition, and teaching methodology. She is currently working on a research project to compare the language acquisition process of Spanish heritage speakers and second language learners, specifically the role of instruction in the acquisition of Spanish definite and indefinite articles. Last February, she participated in the Texas Language Education Research Conference in San Antonio, TX with a poster session. Prior to joining our department, she was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Siena College in Loudonville, NY and at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. She is excited to return to UAlbany and be part of the LLC Department in this new capacity.
**Faculty News**

**María Alejandra Aguilar** has been awarded the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS) Wadysaw Maryan Froelich Research Grant, in support of her research project “Chasing Freedom: Black Criminalization, Leadership, and Writing in Colombia, Brazil, and Cuba.” She also had two panels accepted at LASA (Latin American Studies Association), which took place in New York in May: *Poéticas de la violencia: Nuevos avances en la dinámica de género y representación en América Latina* and *Beyond Nation: Feminism and Protest in Nineteenth-Century Latin American Print Culture*. The aim of these panels was to encourage cutting-edge conversations about the emergence of voices claiming gender equality, the dynamic between violence and gender representations, and the role of the press as a vehicle of protest and contestation beyond national borders. She also presented her paper, “My Beloved Commodity: Women Intellectuals and Artists in the Caribbean Print Culture (1868-1912),” at the International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Her article “Heroísmo y conciencia racial en la poeta afro-cubana Cristina Ayala” has been accepted in Meridional. Revista Chilena de Estudios Latinoamericanos (forthcoming in October 2016).

**Maria Keyes** was invited to participate as a panel member in the New York State Teacher Certification Examination Marker Response Conference for Italian Content Specialty Tests. She and other invited guests review and determine the best practices for scoring Italian language tests statewide. She was also invited to be an AP Reading subject for the College Board. She attended the New York Italian-American Conference of State Legislators in June where she serves on the selection committee for their annual college scholarship that awards four scholarships annually for excellence in academics and athletics. She is pictured (second from left) with awardees Rose Pedretti of Walt Whitman High School, Aaron Di Mezzo of Rome Free Academy and Jacob DePalma of Slovay High School.

**Ilka Kressner** (pictured at left) translated selected short fiction by Puerto Rican author Mayra Santos-Febres and a selection of poems by Peruvian authors Roxana Crisólogo and Victoria Guerrera, to be published in the spring 2017 issue *Review—Literature and Arts of the Americas*. She delivered a paper on the functions of collecting in the oeuvre of Juan de Castellanos, a poet, adventurer and very early Spanish émigré to Latin America (in 1539) at a conference at the Universitas Castellae in Valladolid, Spain, in July of 2016. She was joined there by her colleague, and graduate of our department, Alejandra Olarte (pictured at right), who is now working as an adjunct professor at the National Research Institute “Caro y Cuervo” in Bogotá, Colombia. An edited volume, with essays based on the papers given at the conference, is currently underway.
Faculty News

Dora Ramirez and colleague Alice Krause are presenting at the Second Language Research Forum (SLRF 2016) held at The Teachers College at Columbia University in September. The title of their presentation was “Effects of Instruction on Article Acquisition in Second Language Spanish.”

Congratulations to Lotfi Sayahi (pictured at right) on his promotion to full professor. Sayahi was co-signer on a grant funded by the SUNY-wide Conversations in the Disciplines (SUNY CID) program, “…designed to bring together SUNY faculty and visiting scholars from non-SUNY institutions to examine new trends, address changes and challenges, review promising research findings, and become acquainted with professional developments in their fields and on other campuses.” He also served in April as the keynote speaker at the SUNY CID-funded Arabic Romance Linguistics Workshop held at Stony Brook and hosted by Stony Brook’s Linguistics Department. In summer, Sayahi taught an intensive two week “code-switching” course in Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa. He and several other faculty from the US and Europe taught courses at the African School of Linguistics in Yamoussoukro to students from all over Africa. More information about the program can be found here: https://sites.google.com/site/africanlingschool/home.

Carmen Serrano’s article, “Gallo-Gallina: Gender Performance and the Androgynous Imagination in Elena Poniatowska’s Hasta no verte Jesús mio” will be included in Routledge’s Performing Ethnicity, Performing Gender Transcultural Perspectives (2017).

Megan Solon, along with colleagues Laura Gurzynski-Weiss of Indiana University and Avizia Long of University of Guam, organized a colloquium in 2015 at the 6th International Conference on Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) held in Leuven, Belgium on TBLT and pronunciation. The colloquium was entitled “TBLT and L2 Pronunciation: Do the Benefits of Tasks Extend beyond Grammar and Lexis?” They also presented a paper entitled “Task Complexity, Language-related Episodes, and Production of L2 Spanish Vowels” as part of the colloquium. Following the conference, they submitted the collection of papers from the colloquium as a proposal for a special thematic issue for the journal, Studies in Second Language Acquisition. The proposal was accepted and the special issue for which the three will serve as guest editors will appear in Spring 2017. Solon’s paper, “Do Learners Lighten Up? Phonetic and Allophonic Acquisition of Spanish /l/ by English-speaking Learners” was accepted for publication in Studies in Second Language Acquisition and a book chapter entitled “Acquisition of Articulatory Control or Language-specific Coarticulatory Patterns? Evidence from the Production of Laterals in Second-language Spanish” was accepted for publication in the Proceedings of the 2015 Hispanic Linguistics Symposium.

French lecturer Lou Stelling spoke on an installment of an audio podcast series entitled Conference Calling with Henry T. Sauter, Esq. During the podcast, Counselor Henry Sauter and Stelling addressed a variety of topics, such as North American French, language variation and change, and the interconnectedness of cultures around the globe. The podcast can be heard online at https://thecommuteconferencecall.wordpress.com/2016/02/13/louis-stelling/.

Professor Emeritus Jean-François Brière chaired the book prize committee of the French Colonial Historical Society in 2016. The Society awards the Boucher Prize and the Heggoy Prize to the best books in French colonial history published during the previous year. He was also invited to participate in a workshop on textbook writing at Rice University in Houston, TX in April.

Professor Mary Beth Winn was one of nine scholars invited to a colloquium on the performance of late medieval French texts, held June 19-22 at the Château de la Bretesche in Brittany, France. She spoke on the verse lais in the Prose Tristan, represented in more than 80 manuscripts and 7 printed editions from the 13th to the early 16th centuries. Her article on a «Chanson in Miniature: ‘Va t’en, mon amoureux désir’» appeared in Tijdschrift van de Koninklijke Vereniging voor Nederlandse Muziekgeschiedenis (TVNM), a Festschrift Issue for musicologist Barton Hudson. Professor Winn is collaborating with Laura Youens of George Washington University on the edition of the chansons of Jean Courttois (fl. 1530-45), for publication by the American Institute of Musicology. For a forthcoming book on Women and Power at the French Renaissance Court, she and art historian Laure Fagnart, of the Université de Liège, Belgium, are co-authoring a study of Louise de Savoie, mother of King Francis I. Professor Winn has recently received funding to establish a UAlbany website on the editions of Anthoine Vérard (1485-1513), the Parisian publisher about whom she has written extensively. She has just completed an article on a book of hours that Vérard prepared for King Charles VIII.

“May 26, 2015 at the University of Lisbon in Lisbon, Portugal, was the official launching of my recent book, Queimar Vieira em Estátua (“Burning Vieira in Effigy”), my annotated transcription of two unpublished manuscripts (dated 1738 and 1743) by the 18th century Inquisitor Antonio Ribeiro de Abreu. These partly autobiographical writings by Antonio Abreu, now finally brought to light, constitute our first and so far only insight into the Inquisitorial mind. Presiding at the launching of my book was Coimbra University Emeritus Professor Joaquim Romero Magalhães, a well-known specialist in Portuguese Inquisitorial history, who delivered a lecture describing his professional relationship with me throughout the years and finely analyzing the scope of my accomplishment in publishing these hitherto unavailable works and my putting them in their historical context through my elaborate introduction. His lecture has now been published in the University of Lisbon’s scholarly journal Cadernos de Estudos Sefarditas, nº 15, 2016, pp. 109-124. Following Professor Magalhães’ lecture I delivered a Portuguese lecture of my own, entitled A perda do Estado da Índia em 1739 (“The loss of Portuguese India in 1739”), an event contemporaneous with the redaction of Father Abreu’s Inquisitorial apologies, but seemingly unrelated. I was invited back to Portugal in April this year, to the city of Belmonte some two hundred miles from Lisbon, where a colloquium was held on the theme of “Inquisition, Crypto-Judaism and Marranism,” jointly organized by the University of the Interior Beira and the Belmonte municipality. On April 15 I delivered a paper in Portuguese entitled: Menina e Moça: A Penúltima vítima crista-nova assassinada pela Inquisição Portuguesa (“Maiden and Girl: the next-to-last New-Christian victim murdered by the Portuguese Inquisition”). My paper dealt with the last two executions carried out by the Portuguese Inquisition that took place at an auto-da-fé in the city of Évora on August 31, 1760.”
Faculty, staff and students showcased some of their other talents at LLC’s annual Evening of the Arts, an evening in April where LLC takes a break from the purely academic and shares artistic sides, indulging in the richness of various cultures through the arts. Thanks to all participants for sharing something of themselves with us all!

The Tango Club (including Professor Ilka Kressner, far left) gave a spectacular performance of dances learned at their weekly meetings!

Professor Emeritus Allen Ballard performed guitar solos accompanied by his rich baritone, serenading all with Russian and French folk songs.

German Lecturer Undine Giguere and Russian Professor Timothy Sergay performed a Goethe poem in German and Russian.

Administrative Manager Janna Harton delighted our palates with ginger sekanjabin (a medieval Middle Eastern vinegar and sugar drink) and Pão de queijo (Brazilian cheese bread).

Graduate student Katja Higgins displayed her ink sketches.

Graduate students Jaime Mundo and Samayra Crooke -Grandel shared their own poetry.

Among others not pictured...

Professor Carmen Serrano provided an amazing fish chowder, Professor Alejandro Aguilar made a beautiful pastafrola, a sweet tart with guava jam common in Uruguay. Denise Osborne brought in goiabada, graduate student Komala Amegashie brought in homemade beignet and secretary Joane MacMillan provided a wonderful solo rendition of Metallica’s “Hero of the Day” echoing hauntingly in the Humanities stairwell.
A valued member of the Spanish program for more than twenty years, **Dr. Aida Torres-Horwitt** announced her retirement from the university this summer. Torres-Horwitt came to the University at Albany in 1989 to work on an MA in Spanish literature and continued on to receive her PhD in Hispanic literatures, writing her dissertation on the 16th-century picaresque novel *Lazarillo de Tormes*. While ABD she taught at local colleges and served also as a lecturer both in the Spanish Program and in the program in Latin American, Caribbean and US Latino Studies, then in 2001 she was hired here as a full-time lecturer, which involved working as the Spanish Program liaison to the University in the High School program and teaching two courses per semester at UAlbany.

Her enthusiasm, versatility, and commitment served both Spanish and LLC well and earned her a University Excellence in Teaching Award. With an encyclopedic knowledge on most things Hispanic, colleagues knew her as a reliable resource who could be counted on to inspire students at any level, from beginning students of Spanish (perhaps only fulfilling a General Education requirement) to Spanish heritage speakers to advanced undergraduate and graduate level students, particularly students interested in Spanish medieval or Golden Age topics (or their relationship to contemporary society), her research specialization areas. For several years she also graciously managed the Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society. Puerto Rican by birth and fully bilingual, she regularly shares her passion for both literature and art (a talented painter, she has exhibited her work at LLC Evening of the Arts programs) with a wide variety of audiences. Her “renaissance” approach to life, determination, and spirit of adventure are reflected in her summer trips to northern Spain where she methodically undertook trekking the Camino de Santiago. We will miss the personal warmth she brought to LLC and we all wish her happiness, joy, and good health in a well-deserved retirement.

Aida was my office neighbor for many years. We met because she always read the articles I posted on my door, and is such a wonderful, intellectually curious person. One year when I was doing the open house for LLC along with one of our star majors in Spanish, the student did not stop talking about how important Aida was to her and her academic experience at UAlbany. She wanted to nominate Aida for a second teaching prize. Aida took French courses with Nabila and Komla, and was encouraging to both of them and so appreciative of their work. A very nurturing presence.

*Professor Susan Blood*  
*French Studies*

Dear Aida,

I wish you an enjoyable well-deserved retirement and will miss you dearly as a colleague and friend. When I started at UAlbany some years ago, you were one of the colleagues who always took time to talk to me when I passed by your office. You welcomed me warmly and introduced me to important topics regarding SUNY politics and guidelines. You urged me to join UUP and took me along to UUP and SUNY events. You shared with me your experiences about UHS. We also often explored issues that concern parts of our lives and life in general. For example, you told me about your experiences as a traveler on the Jakobsweg, named also *il camino francés*, the famous centuries-old pilgrimage path through the Pyrenees and Northern Spain that I myself have never done, but was always interested in learning more about and walking at one point. You also invited me kindly to your home in Puerto Rico when I expressed my desire to visit and gave me ample suggestions of what to do in this your favorite place of the world…. I fondly think of you quite often and miss your gentle presence.

*Undine Giguere*  
*German Lecturer and UHS Liaison*
LLC Retirement Announcements continued...

When long-time Russian-speaking LLC secretary Amber Stephens announced her plans for retirement summer 2016 after 32 years of exceptional service to the university, we all congratulated her heartily for a job well done, but we also perceived a great loss to the university and LLC, of taking with her into retirement all those years of knowledge and history of the Russian Program as well as all LLC programs, and much wisdom and insight.

She started working with the languages, assisting in the department office while completing her Russian MA and she loved the languages, cultures, faculty and students so much that she ended up staying. She helped keep the languages going through many changes and challenges across the years (and across 10 university presidents!), starting in Russian and then working with German, Spanish, and other language programs before the original departments were merged in 1997 to what we all know now as LLC. She then served as one of LLC’s office staff, helped to facilitate the merger, coordinated all the paperwork for graduate students and graduate directors across multiple programs, engineered countless successful events, ensured travel and schedules were completed and implemented the best way possible, helped with untold faculty recruitments, countless new hires and departures, and quite a few tenure and promotions cases, resolved computer issues, worked on planning and then developed our department website, created our Facebook presence, supported and handled all the event day’s activities for the high school Olympiada of Spoken Russian competition since its inception 20 years ago, and so much more.

LLC had send-off celebration for her in early September where we shared special memories and our appreciation. It’s a steep learning curve for us all without her and we miss her smile and humor, but we wish her all the very best in all her new adventures.

From the Chair continued...

events. We’re continuing to pursue ways to have students become more engaged in both local and distant communities. We continue to offer the business French exam for the French Diplôme supérieur de français des affaires and offer opportunities for students to engage in real-time internet conversations with French native speakers. This summer we offered an online course of Spanish for the Health Professions, and are developing a blended course of Spanish for Community Engagement this spring. We encourage you to continue your studies, in the same language or a new one, wherever you are.

If you’re nearby or in town, you’re always welcome to stop by and participate in our events which are free and open to the public. For details visit www.albany.edu/llc or join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/ualle for regular updates. Looking forward to seeing you and hearing from you!

Best wishes,

Maurice Westmoreland
LLC Chair
Alumni News

Alumni Alice Krause (left) and Dora Ramirez (right) reconnected with one another in February at the 2016 Texas Language Education Research Conference (TexLER 2016) that took place in San Antonio, TX. They presented a collaborative poster, “Effects of Instruction on Article Acquisition in Second Language Spanish,” in which they examined the delayed effects of instruction on the acquisition of articles in second language (L2) Spanish.

From French major Matthew Kelly

“After graduating from UAlbany in 2014, I went on to participate in the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF). I was placed in the Académie de Lille, which comprises the French départements of Nord and Pas-de-Calais and lived in a town of 25,000 called Béthune, which also hosted a dozen other assistants from the US, the UK, South Africa, Spain and Germany. I worked at Lycée Polyvalent Marguerite Yourcenar in Beuvry, a French high school that focused specifically on training students to enter into careers in catering and hospitality. TAPIF was one of the best experiences of my life, allowing me (as an American) the rare opportunity to live and work in France. I was especially fortunate to be assigned to the Académie de Lille, which is a geographic crossroads for Paris, London, and most of Belgium. The program not only afforded me the opportunity to complement my studies with real world experience and fulfill my dream of living in France, but also facilitated inexpensive travel throughout several European countries. My fondest memories of the program are undoubtedly the relationships I developed with my fellow assistants as well as the numerous French friends I still keep in contact with today. Being in a modestly populated town gave me a more authentic French experience and was immeasurably useful in improving my command of the language as well as my understanding of French culture. I am lucky to be able to participate in the program once again in 2016. I’ll be back at the Académie de Lille this October.”

Thank You! ¡Gracias! Merci! Grazie! Dankel! Toda! Spasibo! Shukran! Obrigado! Gratus!

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