The Clemson Polyglot, Issue Two/Spring 2008

Department of Languages, Clemson University

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Dear Friends of the Department of Languages,

Without differences, the world and humanity would be monotonous and meaningless. The theme of this issue of *The Clemson Polyglot*, “Celebrating Our Diversity,” highlights the role of language education in enhancing our humanity. Diversity in all its forms — of thought, of perspectives on life, in languages and cultures — is an essential part of who we are. As a “mini-United Nations” of the Clemson University community, the Department of Languages fosters the understanding and appreciation of diversity.

In this issue, you will read about a variety of special courses that offer our students different perspectives for viewing the world. As always, we appreciate your support and the sharing of your time, talents, and resources with us, and we invite your comments on this issue through the **Viewpoint** feature of our website at http://www.clemson.edu/caah/languages/.

I take this opportunity to inform you that I have accepted an offer from the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities to serve as Associate Dean for Academic Services, after serving six years as Chair of the Department of Languages. Professor Barbara Zaczek will be Interim Department Chair until a search is conducted to identify a permanent chair. The Department of Languages remains, of course, my home department and will always be close to my heart and mind.

Enjoy your reading.

Constancio Nakuma, Ph.D.
Professor of French and Chair, Department of Languages
Associate Dean for Academic Services, College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities

**Department of Languages’ Courses Celebrate Diversity**

In addition to the traditional courses offered by the Department of Languages, students have the opportunity to study special topics that present them with a diversity of perspectives for understanding the world. From sensitive signs in American Sign Language to perceptions of the Hispanic population in the Southeastern U.S., Creative Inquiry and other special courses allow students to research a variety of subjects in-depth. Here are some of our current projects and students’ thoughts on them.

**Sensitive and Controversial Signs in American Sign Language**

Last semester, six Clemson students embarked on a research venture in American Sign Language (ASL) in order to better understand the role of culture, attitudes, and behaviors within the Deaf Community. Students in this Creative Inquiry project, under the direction of Professor Alton Brant, are researching a longstanding ethical dilemma, regarding the voicing of particularly sensitive or controversial signs in ASL. A comparative analysis of the data collected from surveys designed by the researchers will ascertain the opinions, attitudes, and expectations of deaf individuals and the interpreters, regarding these controversial signs.

"By studying appropriate voicing in various situations, I will be able to apply our findings to my future interpreting endeavors." — Tiffany Brown

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**CLIP Immerses Students in Language and Culture**

“Ich verspreche, hoch und heilig, dass ich während der folgenden fünf Wochen mit meinen Kommilitonen und meinen Professoren nur auf Deutsch spreche.”

“私たちはクラスの中でも外でも日本語だけで話すことを誓います。”

“Como participante en el programa de CLIP, yo prometo que desde este momento en adelante no hablaré en inglés, sino en español, y…”

The Clemson Language Immersion Program (CLIP), a blend of classroom instruction and social and cultural activities outside of the classroom, begins each session with these formal pledges. Every summer session since 1995, students have promised to use nothing but their target language for five weeks. From Monday to Friday, they participate in language immersion activities for approximately seven hours a day. CLIP Director Professor Toshiko Kishimoto notes that this is an outstanding program for students to prepare for studying abroad and for those eager to advance rapidly to upper-level language courses. Last summer, programs were offered in German, Japanese, and Spanish.

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Diversity
(Continued from page 1)

The Notion of Harmony in the West and in China
The idea of harmony as an ideal through which humans can live in peace with one another and with nature, in both Eastern and Western philosophy, was the focus of last semester’s Chinese Creative Inquiry project. Discussions, led by Professor Yanming An, covered topics, such as the Taoist concept of complementation in yin and yang and the modern day influences of harmony in music. Students studied similar ideas arising in various philosophies regarding harmony and how these ideas are reflected in everyday life.

“These discussions have given me another viewpoint through which to see music, both the present and past concepts of it, and how it can be used to promote, or to disrupt, harmony.” —Becky Sexton

La Chanson Française
This past semester a French Creative Inquiry project began investigating new developments in “la chanson française,” a genre characterized by poetic lyrics and made famous by such luminaries as Piaf, Brassens, Brel, and Gainsbourg. Since the turn of the last century, a new generation of singers has developed a significant following. Despite growing American interest, there is a paucity of information in English on this “new new wave” of French music. As a response to this situation, the group, led by Professor Nathan Guss, is creating an English language website and organizing a chanson française radio broadcast on Clemson student radio.

“The creative inquiry environment allows for students to build stronger relationships with their peers and delve much deeper into a subject.” —Sara Cain

German Film after Auschwitz
This Creative Inquiry course, under the direction of Professor Margit Sinka, studied the role of memory of the Holocaust in German feature films and documentaries. Focusing on memory is a pressing issue, since there will soon no longer be any eyewitnesses to the Holocaust. Students researched how remembering occurs, how it is represented, and how we and future generations can assure the perpetuation of memory. The students also researched societal issues, such as public and private memory. By the end of the course, they prepared a DVD analyzing film excerpts centering on generational differences in memory representation.

“As generations pass on, the mysteries of a fractured past become ours to unravel, and we are the ones who will need to protect memory from empty ritualization.” —Paige Gibson

The Italian Immigrant Experience
Growing up in a large Irish-American family, Megan McMahon experienced a multifaceted sense of identity. Last semester, through an Italian directed readings course led by Professor Barbara Zaczek, Megan researched issues of cultural identity of Italian immigrants. Accounts of immigration to South America, critical essays about the Italian experience of immigration, and the works of prominent Italian-American women, such as Helen Barolini, were studied. Megan discovered that even though Italians belong to “white” America, third and fourth generations of this group continue to struggle with issues of cultural identity.

“This Italian course has given me a new understanding of how immigration has and continues to shape America.” —Megan McMahon

(Continued on page 3)
United States-Japanese Economic Relations in South Carolina

In order to understand the economic influence of Asian countries and to prepare South Carolina for the future world economy, students in Professor Toshiko Kishimoto's Cultural Inquiry class are studying economic relations between the United States and Japan. They are focusing on this relationship in a three-stage sequence: 1) U.S.-Japan relations after World War II; 2) Japanese investments in South Carolina; and 3) a behavior analysis of Chinese, Japanese, and American businessmen. In the first stage, the students researched topics, such as the Japanese auto industries in the U.S. and problems that Japanese management faces.

“I believe that I learned a lot that I will be able to take with me into my future career, and I hope that the understanding I gained through the creative inquiry will help me in creating my own business relations with the Japanese in the future.” —Talon Smith

North American Perceptions of the Growing Hispanic Population in South Carolina

Students in Professor Clementina Adams’ Creative Inquiry course are researching how North American residents view Hispanic immigrants in order to understand how we see other cultures and how other cultures see us. Last semester, students developed a survey in order to gather information on North Americans’ perceptions of Hispanics in three neighboring states in the Southeast with growing Hispanic populations: South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. It is expected that the results will help promote communication, mutual respect, and understanding between these two groups.

“My family [is] from Venezuela and I have lived in this country since birth... This class has allowed me to understand other peoples’ opinions, especially Americans’, about my family and the Latin American culture.” —Charles Lander

Students in these special language courses have an opportunity to celebrate a diversity of viewpoints through their research, and thus they will leave Clemson University with a better understanding and appreciation of the world.

CLIP Immerses Students in Language and Culture (Continued from page 1)

German Cooking Classes, Kaffee und Kuchen, and Tours

German CLIP, under the direction of Professors Lee Ferrell and Mark Russell, was filled not only with good sounds in the classroom but also with good smells from the kitchen. Teaching Assistant Andreas Schneider shared his love of German cooking with the students, putting them to work learning not only vocabulary but also how to prepare traditional German dishes. Students had the opportunity as well to gather for Kaffee und Kuchen (coffee and cake), hosted by Johanna Beck, a German native and friend of the German section. A trip to Spartanburg to tour Stankiewicz Automotive, a manufacturer of automotive subflooring, raised students' awareness of German and Austrian companies in the region. The group also took its traditional trip to Charleston, enjoying the sights with a tour in German.

Video Camera Communication with Students in Japan

In a new component of the Japanese CLIP program, each student talked to a native Japanese speaker in Japan via Skype (a computer software communications program using video cameras). Under the direction of Professor Toshiko Kishimoto, students sent e-mails about upcoming topics prior to each Skype talk and kept a Skype journal, enabling them to improve their speaking and writing skills. Other cultural activities last summer included: visiting a Japanese art studio for brush painting and calligraphy lessons, giving campus tours to Japanese high school students, and visiting and staying at the homes of Japanese families in the Greenville area. A highlight of the session was a field trip to Atlanta in which students visited the...
CLIP Immerses Students in Language and Culture  (Continued from page 3)

Japanese Trade Organization, the Japanese Consul General, and Japanese businessmen; they spent Saturday morning with a Japanese partner at the Asian Festival and dined at a Japanese restaurant.

Spanish Renaissance Art, Exotic Animals, and the Human Body
During Spanish CLIP, students spent their mornings with Professor Kevin Poole improving their grammar and vocabulary skills, while afternoon sessions with Professor Liliana Hernández and Teaching Assistant Marta Gamboa centered on listening and conversational skills. These activities included watching and commenting on Hispanic films, reporting on current events in the Hispanic world, or learning to cook Hispanic foods with native-speaker partners. In-class studies prepared students for three field trips: the art galleries of the Bob Jones University to see its collection of Renaissance Spanish art, the Hollywild Animal Park in Spartanburg to view exotic animals, and the “Body World Exhibit” at Discovery Place in Charlotte to see the inner workings of the human body.

Japanese CLIP student Justin Prescott noted that “CLIP was great. It far exceeded my expectations. I can honestly say that this is the first time that I have been truly challenged by any course. At the same time, it was fun, and I learned a lot.” For more information about Clemson’s fun-filled language immersion program, contact CLIP Director Toshiko Kishimoto (tkishik@clemson.edu).

The Bannon Foundation Honors
David M. Hamilton
Constancio K. Nakuma, Chair

David M. Hamilton, a former associate and long-time friend of the department, died on June 26, 2007. His memory and values live on through an endowment established in his honor by the Bannon Foundation. At a ceremony on November 20, 2007, Trey Bannon, the donor, spoke about the passion with which David Hamilton promoted international education. David believed that all Americans should learn other languages and experience other cultures. He practiced what he preached. As a microbiology and German double major at Clemson, David chose to teach German in the Department of Languages from 1999-2001. He also assisted Professor Emeritus Ed Arnold with a number of student trips abroad to Germany. Before his passing, David was working on renovating the Roderick International House, where language clubs held social events with international students. The $120,000 endowment established in David’s honor will produce an income in six years. Meanwhile, the Bannon Foundation will pay $5,000 per year for six years ($30,000) to award immediate scholarships to language students studying abroad. Thank you, Trey Bannon, for your thoughtfulness!
Facll\lty
News

**Clementina Adams**, professor of Spanish, researched herbal, folk, and alternative medicine in China with Dr. Yanhua Zhang in summer 2007. She also traveled to Colombia in fall 2007 with representatives of Clemson's Department of Architecture and faculty from other universities to assist with a proposal for designing flood-resistant housing in the rural coastal areas of Cienaga.


**Julie Huntington**, assistant professor of French, presented her paper "Identités bruyantes dans *Solibo Magnifique* de Patrick Chamoiseau" at the Conseil International des Études Francophones Conference in Cayenne, French Guyana, in July 2007. She is currently completing work on her book-length manuscript *Sounding Off: Rhythm, Music and Identity in West African and Caribbean Francophone Novels*.

**John Littlejohn**, lecturer of German, gave presentations on literary, cultural, and pedagogical topics at the University of Texas at El Paso, Carson Newman College, the University of Illinois, and at a workshop for the South Carolina American Association of Teachers of German in Spartanburg. He published, with Michael T. Putnam, "National Socialism with Fler: German Hip Hop from the Right" in *Popular Music and Society* 30.4 (2007).

**Jeff Love**, associate professor of German and Russian, has completed a new book on Tolstoy to be published by Continuum (London) in the fall. He also presented a paper on Tolstoy and universalism at the 2007 meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in New Orleans. He is currently at work on another book, tentatively entitled *The Sadism of Modernity*.


**Constancio Nakuma**, professor of French, conducted a workshop for jobseekers in foreign languages at the annual conference of the Modern Language Association held in Chicago in December 2007. He will give a public lecture on "The Foreign Language Imperative in an Age of Globalization" at York College of Pennsylvania in March 2008.


**Helene M. Riley**, Alumni Distinguished Professor of German, researched information for the traveling exhibit "Cultural Contributions of German-speaking Settlers in South Carolina" under the auspices of Citizens of the World. The exhibit, which received $30,000 in grants from the South Carolina Humanities Council and Clemson University, was displayed during German-American Month (October 2007) at the Cooper Library.

**Margit M. Sinka**, professor of German, co-authored *Berliner Spaziergänge*, to be published spring 2008 by Focus Publishing Co. Her article, "The Denk ich an Deutschland Films of the Two Andreases from the East: Kleinert's Bewildering Berlin and Dresen's Stagnating Uckermark," as well as two other articles on German film, will appear in the winter 2007 and spring 2008 issues of *German Politics and Society*.


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Graciela Tissera, associate professor of Spanish, published a book chapter on Argentina with Yale University Press and a review of Uruguayan poet Eduardo Espina’s book El cutis patrio. Her course, “Introduction to Hispanic Literary Forms,” was identified as one of the top ten courses in the National Study of Spanish Literature Courses conducted by the Educational Policy Improvement Center.

Barbara Zaczk, professor of Italian, was invited to chair and participate in a panel discussion of the controversial and complex memoir “My Father II Duce” by Mussolini’s son Romano Mussolini, entitled “Romano: Revisionism, Relevance, and Responsibility,” at the American Association for Teachers of Italian Annual Conference in Washington, DC, October 11-13, 2007.


Visions International has trained executives of JTEKT Automotive, NICCA, AFCO, Yazaki Corporation, BMW, Spartanburg Stainless Steel and other global corporations in Mexico, South America, and Germany.

Bernell was the first Clemson student to graduate with a Language and International Trade degree with a concentration in Japanese in May 2000.

Bernell King Ingram is owner, business coach, and language and intercultural trainer of Visions International, a professional coaching practice partnering with global executives and entrepreneurs. Bernell equips her clients to add strategy to their passion™ and exercise best practices of communicating and relating in an intercultural environment.

TEXTOS: An Online Journal

TEXTOS is a refereed literary journal that publishes articles that relate to the study of Hispanic literatures, cultures, and trends in international business affecting the Hispanic world. You will find the most recent issue online at: http://www.clemson.edu/caah/languages/textos/textos.html. For more information please contact Professor Graciela Tissera (gtisser@clemson.edu).

Latin American-Spanish Film Festival VI
February 21, 28, March 13, 27, April 3, 10, 2008
Kinard Auditorium G-01, 5 P.M.
Contact: Professor Liliana Hernández (liliana@clemson.edu)

Italian Film Festival
March 5, 12, 26, April 2 and 9, 2008
Edwards Hall Room 304, 5:45 P.M.
Contact: Professor Luca Barattoni (lbaratt@clemson.edu)

Chinese Film Festival
March 25, 27, and 31, 2008
Strom Thurmond Institute, 7 P.M.
Contact: Professor Yanhua Zhang (yhzhang@clemson.edu).

International Week
March 31 - April 6, 2008, sponsored by the Gantt Intercultural Center.

1st Language and International Trade Annual Conference
March 31 - April 1, 2008, Madren Center.
Contact: Professor Lee Ferrell (ferrell@clemson.edu)

African Film Festival
April 1, 8, and 15, 2008
Daniel Hall Room 100, 4 P.M.
Contact: Professor Julie Huntington (jhuntin@clemson.edu).

International Festival
April 6, 2008, Bowman Field, sponsored by the Gantt Intercultural Center.
The Department of Languages welcomed several new faculty in fall 2007. Here is a short biographical profile of each.

**Tressela “Tressy” Bateson**, lecturer of American Sign Language (ASL), is originally from West Virginia and attended high school at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf. After graduating, she attended California State University at Northridge, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology. She then attended Gallaudet University for graduate studies and received a master's degree in school counseling. After 15 years as a counselor, Tressy decided to teach ASL full time. Tressy resides in Mauldin, is married to Norman, and has two hearing sons.

**Bernarda del Villar**, lecturer of Spanish, received an M.A. in Spanish literature from the University of Arkansas. She is from Colombia and has taught Spanish for ten years. She currently teaches intermediate Spanish at Clemson. Her research interests include contemporary Latin American narrative and film and the comparative cultural study of socio-historical, literary, and film celebrations in Latin America. Bernarda enjoys watching movies, reading, and walking in her free time.

**Lisa DeWaarD Dykstra**, assistant professor of Spanish and second language acquisition, has a Ph.D. in second language acquisition from the University of Iowa. In addition to her teaching and research, she is the Language Program Director for the general education Spanish courses. She also has two master's degrees from Iowa: an M.A.T. in teaching Spanish and an M.A. in Russian linguistics. Her research focuses on the confluence of language and culture, specifically on the acquisition of interlanguage pragmatic competence of adults learning a second language. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and traveling.

**Jingwei Li**, lecturer of Chinese, directs the intermediate-level Chinese labs. She is a member of the Cultural Exchange Community at Clemson University. Jingwei majored in Chinese language and was a lecturer in the Department of Chinese at the University of Technology in Dalian, China. She likes reading and listening to classical music in her spare time, and her favorite author is Virginia Woolf.

**Suzanne Tyson**, lecturer of Spanish, began her career as a high school teacher of Spanish and French in California. She served two years in the Peace Corps in the rural town of Portachuelo, Bolivia, assisting indigenous people from the Altiplano. She then returned to teach at the high school level and became a principal and a director of curriculum for a San Francisco area school district. Suzanne has a Ph.D. in education with an emphasis on diversity and second language acquisition from the University of the Pacific. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and cooking.

**Sarah Watt**, lecturer of Spanish, received her M.A. degree in 2007 from the University of Kentucky and currently teaches elementary and intermediate Spanish. She has had the opportunity to use her Spanish in former employment, ranging from elementary school aide to coordinator of a sexual assault response team. Sarah has studied and lived abroad in Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Spain, and has visited Argentina and Panama. She is originally from Lexington, Kentucky, and enjoys the outdoors.

**Fred Weiser**, lecturer of Spanish, teaches elementary and intermediate classes. His degrees include a B.A. from the University of Idaho and an M.A. from the University of New Mexico. He is currently working toward a Ph.D. at Texas Tech. His dissertation concerns the production of literature in the context of repressed societies and focuses on the work of three survivors of military repression in the Southern Cone. Originally from New York City, he used to play clarinet professionally. Fred’s hobby is world travel, and in May 2008 he will visit his 38th county, Iceland.

**Sawsan Zainal**, is a Fulbright foreign language teaching assistant from the Kingdom of Bahrain. She is the first Arabic language instructor at Clemson and a member of the Cultural Exchange Community at Clemson University. Sawsan began studying English in the fourth grade. She earned a B.A. degree in English language and literature from the University of Bahrain in 2005. She worked as an assistant administrator at the University College of Bahrain before obtaining a position as an English language teacher with the Ministry of Education in Bahrain. She says that she is enjoying her Clemson experience.

**Maureen Zamora**, lecturer of Spanish, is originally from Costa Rica. She teaches elementary and intermediate classes. She has a Master of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in marketing from the Interamerican University of Costa Rica. Maureen has worked in Costa Rica at several universities, teaching customer services, international marketing, business administration, and e-commerce. She loves to read, watch TV, and play with her baby.
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Thank You to Our Friends

The Department of Languages thanks all who have generously supported our efforts, either by donating to departmental programs or by attending department-sponsored events. If you would like to make a donation, it is possible to do so online at: http://www.clemson.edu/alumni/giving/giftdesignations/aah.html/index.html. Please scroll down and click on the “Register/Log On to Our Secure Online Giving Form” box to log on (if you are already registered) or to register (if you are a new user). After you have logged on, enter the amount you want to donate and select from the “Designation” pull-down menu one of the Department of Languages’ projects/causes listed below.

- Languages: Jordan Dean Student Travel Account
- Languages: American Sign Language
- Languages: The Language & International Trade (L&IT) Annual Conference Fund
- Languages: Declamation Contest
- Languages: Program Development Fund

Visit the Department of Languages web site at http://www.clemson.edu/caah/languages/

Emeriti Update:
L&IT Creator Still Active

Pat Wannamaker visits the Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina.

The popular Language and International Trade (L&IT) major was designed and directed by Professor Emerita Pat Wannamaker with support from a three-year curricular innovation grant in 1986-1989. The purpose of the program was to develop a solid liberal arts baccalaureate, whose curriculum would equip students to compete in the international job market. The three emphases were language studies, international business studies, and a paid internship in a global setting.

The latest (2000) South Carolina Commission on Higher Education peer review of Clemson’s Department of Languages commended the L&IT program as unique in South Carolina and the nation, concluding that “the L&IT majors have been a tremendous success for the department and the entire university. This was a bold and creative idea, which has born much fruit and made Clemson’s name known throughout the country.” Pat continues her interest in L&IT majors by extending a lunch invitation every spring to L&IT award winners. Expect a call!

Language study is still her favorite thing to do. She is studying Hebrew to read the Jewish scriptures and teaches English to internationals.

Visit the Department of Languages web site at http://www.clemson.edu/caah/languages/

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