Dear Friends of the Department of Languages,

When I accepted to serve as interim chair in January of 2008, I expected that my new position would involve challenges. Little did I know how significant these challenges would be for all of us. I thank our faculty and staff for their support and graceful acceptance of money-saving measures necessary to address the budget cuts. One of the measures was to limit the publication of our newsletter to only one issue this year; however, the contents of our Polyglot testify to the incredible achievements of our faculty and students with regard to research, international exposure, and new programs.

I would like to share with you my reflection on one very successful event because it offers a valuable insight into what constitutes a rewarding university experience for students and faculty. On April 16, 2009, the German Section, with the support of the Honors College, sponsored an evening which included viewing of the movie “The Lives of Others,” followed by a pizza fest and a discussion. A panel of faculty from various disciplines (German, history, and political science) made a brief introduction and left the floor to the students representing a cross-section of Clemson.

The movie presents life in the former East Germany from the viewpoint of a censor. A close-up look at a totalitarian system, the movie necessarily raises questions of freedom, art, censorship and conformity, so I expected the students’ reaction to focus on these aspects. I was astounded by the depth, spontaneity and passion of their discussion, which lasted for over two hours. The censor’s story (another country, another era, and another political system) became a pretext for probing universal and personal facets of human existence. If we, as faculty, provide such pretexts, then we have done our job as educators.

Shanley Beckett completed her L&IH internship in Granada, Spain, where she is pictured visiting the Alhambra.

Clemson students majoring in Language and International Trade (L&IT) and Language and International Health (L&IH) have a unique opportunity to apply their classroom learning to real-life work environments through an internship with an international firm or agency (L&IT) or with a hospital or health-related organization (L&IH). This requirement may be fulfilled in the summer between their junior and senior year or full-time or part-time during a semester. Students must also write an extensive report in the target language on the company or institution where they interned.

Shanley Beckett, a May 2009 graduate in L&IH, fulfilled her internship requirement in Granada, Spain. A native of Estill, South Carolina, Shanley began studying Biological Sciences at Clemson but changed her major to L&IH after a class in Public Health. With L&IH, she found that she could combine her passion for Spanish and Health Sciences into one major. In the summer of 2008, Shanley worked for three months at the Cancer Association of Spain and at the Pediatric Oncology Division in El Hospital de las Nieves in Granada. She translated forms and worked in the main office to learn how a non-profit organization functions in Spain. Having worked with the United Way in the United States, she was able to compare non-profit organizations in different cultures. At the hospital, she met young oncology patients from diverse regions of Spain and assisted them with their coursework. She found the work “fulfilling, yet challenging.” After graduation, Shanley plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on international organizations.

Clemson Celebrates Italian Studies at Summit

Lorenzo Borgotallo, Lecturer of Italian

Campus-wide attention and support for the second annual Italian Studies Summit, held on November 7, 2008, confirmed the passion for Italian language and culture at Clemson University. The summit’s main objective was to spark a discussion on the various initiatives, strategies, and policies needed to further the cause of Italian language and culture in the Clemson area, the state of South Carolina, and beyond.

A panel discussion on the needs and expectations of current Clemson students of Italian brought together the following participants: Barbara Zaczezek, professor of Italian and interim chair of the Department of Languages, Constancio Nakuma, associate dean for the College of Architecture,
Internships Provide Valuable Experience for L&IT and L&IH Students (Continued from page 1)

Because of the large number of foreign companies with operations based in South Carolina, students may choose an internship closer to home. One student who selected this option is Tessa Burnett, a May 2009 graduate in L&IT with a concentration in Japanese. Tessa became interested in Japanese culture watching anime (Japanese animation). After taking several Japanese classes at Clemson, she changed her major from Engineering to L&IT - Japanese. She then studied in Japan in the summer of 2007 through Clemson’s Kyoto Study Abroad program. In the summer of 2008, she completed her internship at Associated Fuel Pump Systems Corporation (AFCO) in Anderson, South Carolina. AFCO is a joint venture between DENSO, a Japanese company, and Robert Bosch Inc., a German firm. At AFCO, Tessa worked on several projects for the Human Resources Department, including a motivational competition called Continuous Improvement Process. She found this experience to be “a wonderful way to motivate associates to work together to help improve the company’s well-being as well as their own.” She used her Japanese language skills to explain procedures and to converse with new associates who were learning English. A native of Abbeville, South Carolina, Tessa plans to attend graduate school and study marketing with a focus on Japan.

Shanley and Tessa are just two of the many L&IH and L&IT students at Clemson who have found their internships to be invaluable. The experiences and insights they gained by participating in the inner workings of international companies and organizations will serve them well as they pursue their careers.

Through an ever-expanding network of alumni and friends of Clemson, the L&IT and L&IH programs offer a variety of opportunities for internships. Those interested in establishing an internship at their company or organization may contact Paula Heusinkveld, Director of L&IT (pheus@clemson.edu) or Graciela Tissera, Director of L&IH (gtisser@clemson.edu).

Clemson Celebrates Italian Studies at Summit (Continued from page 1)

Arts and Humanities (AAH), Rob Porter, development officer for the College of AAH, Tom Kuehn, professor of history and chair of the Department of History, Andrew Levin, associate professor of music, and Paul Abenante, former CEO of the American Bakers’ Association.

The summit opened with a lecture on “Using Constructivist Methods and Authentic Materials to Teach Languages at Any Level,” by Christine Ristaino, lecturer of French and Italian at Emory University and co-creator of a groundbreaking culture and second language acquisition method.

The afternoon’s events included a presentation of the recently published book by Professors Zaczek and Rosetta D’Angelo entitled Resisting Bodies: Narratives of Italian Partisan Women, a highly praised translation of texts that explore the experience of partisan women in Italy between 1943 and 1945. Additionally, Andrea Mirabile, assistant professor of Italian at Vanderbilt University, presented “Pasolini’s La ricotta: Writing with Painting,” which questioned the traditional boundaries between figurative art, literature, and film.

Special thanks go to the Italian Section and to all the sponsors and donors: the National Italian American Foundation, the Coccia Foundation, and Paul Abenante. The next Italian Studies Summit is currently planned for a two-day period in fall 2009.

Italian Studies Advisory Board Established

In recent years, the Department of Languages at Clemson University has established a dynamic Italian Studies program, which currently includes a minor and a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages. We are pleased to announce the latest addition to the program, the Italian Studies Advisory Board. The board held its first meeting on February 27, 2009, and has been incorporated to promote initiatives, strategies and policies to enhance, develop and advance Clemson University’s Italian Studies program. This is an effort to not only further the cause of promoting Italian language and culture at Clemson, but also throughout the state and beyond.

The founding members of this board are board chairman, Paul Abenante, Gabriel Battista, Cav. Joseph Coccia, Jr., Dr. Rosetta D’Angelo, Mark Magliocchetti, John Marino, Dr. Christine Ristaino, Dr. John Rosa, and Dr. Barbara Zaczek. The professions and board memberships of each brings a valued and dynamic dimension to this advisory board.

The National Italian American Foundation, along with the Italian Studies Advisory Board, and the Italian Studies program at Clemson, are pleased to announce that the National Italian American Foundation Public Policy Speaker series will make its way to Clemson’s campus on Friday, November 20, 2009. The guest speaker will be Peter Pace, retired four-star general of the U.S. Marine Corps and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
Student Honors and Awards

Congratulations to these award recipients!

**Department of Languages Student Honors and Awards 2009**

- **Andrea Belbusti** — Inergy Automotive Award for Excellence in the Language and International Trade Major
- **Matthew Conner** — BMW German Studies Award
- **Madison Foster** — Gallaudet/Clerk Award for Excellence in American Sign Language
- **Paige Gibson** — Draexlmaier Language Award for Excellence in German
- **Caroline Hempel** — Language and International Health Award of Excellence
- **Elizabeth Hicklin** — Draexlmaier Automotive German Studies Award
- **Ami Hughes** — American Association of Teachers of French Award
- **Anna Hulbert** — JAASC Award for Excellence in Japanese
- **Megan Kelly** — Pacific Gateway Award for Excellence in Chinese
- **Anne Murken** — Carlton Moore Award for Excellence in German and International Trade; Achim von Arnim Award for Excellence in German Literature; and Inergy Automotive Award for Excellence in the Language and International Trade Major
- **Colleen Raymonda** — Draexlmaier Language Award for Excellence in German
- **Jennifer Rodden** — American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Award
- **Becky Sexton** — FIA Award for Excellence in Language and International Trade in Japanese
- **Kristina Shenk** — Language and International Health Award of Excellence
- **Jason Weeks** — Patricia W. Wannamaker Language and International Trade Award of Excellence

**Other Student Honors and Awards**

- **Rachel Salerno** won the Coccia Award for most outstanding student of Italian.
- **Natasha Korba** (L&IT-French) was part of a team awarded Outstanding Delegation to the Food and Agriculture Committee at the 5th Annual Stockholm Model United Nations Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, on November 21-23, 2008.

**Alumni Update: Spanish Teacher Wins Award for Her Dedication**

Amanda Cox Schlock graduated from Clemson University in 1993 with a degree in Language and International Trade with a concentration in Spanish. After graduation, she worked for Jantzen, Inc.'s personnel department, where she used Spanish to translate for applicants and employees. She also worked in the engineering department, where one assignment took her to Guatemala to teach employees how to sew a collar for a particular shirt. Amanda returned to Clemson and earned a teaching certificate in 1998. Two influential educators who encouraged her to become a teacher were Linda Garvin, her West-Oak High School Spanish teacher, and Dr. Paula Heusinkveld, her Spanish professor at Clemson.

Amanda has been teaching Spanish at Walhalla High School in South Carolina for eleven years. She also is the Teacher Cadet instructor and co-directs the Miss Walhira pageant. Her dedication to her students and her profession was recognized when she was voted by her peers as the Walhalla High School “Teacher of the Year” in 2006. Amanda was also chosen as an “Honor Roll Teacher of the Year” for the School District of Oconee County in 2006.

**Department of Languages Adds New Concentrations**

The Department of Languages is pleased to announce that three new language concentrations have been approved for the Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages: American Sign Language, Chinese, and Italian. The department now has several degree programs from which students may choose; the three new concentrations in Modern Languages join French, German, Japanese and Spanish. Additionally, the department offers a Bachelor of Arts in Language and International Trade and a Bachelor of Science in Language and International Health.

**Students Receive Travel Grants to Study Abroad**

The Department of Languages continues to increase the number of Travel Grants-in-Aid offered to students for study abroad programs. This year 32 students were funded with amounts ranging from $300 to $1,200. Recipients and donors of the awards were honored at a reception on April 23 at Clemson University. Donors include C.E. and Anne Hughes, Elizabeth Epting, J.C. Smith, LeRoy Adams, C.H. Satterfield, JoAnn McNatt, Ellis Bradford, the Jordan A. Dean, Sr. Annual Travel Grant (established by alumnus Dr. James Monroe in honor of Professor Emeritus Jordan Dean), and the David M. Hamilton Memorial Foreign Language Trust Fund (established by alumnus Trey Bannon through the Bannon Foundation). In addition, students studying in Italy received awards from the Coccia Foundation.

Student recipients of study abroad awards are, in the first row (from left): Emily Wells, Amanda Daniele, Anne Murken, and Anna Jackson; and in the second row: Dylan Ashe, Patrick Young, Paul Coats, and Brendan Smith. Recipients not pictured are: Anne Jordan Seignious, Jason Weeks, Dominique Jordan, Sylvia Lee, Dylan Lusk, Hannah Mills, Emily Ridgway, Angela Rigdon, Carlee Rosen, Marina Besedina, Deanna Buchanan, Tonya Smith, Sebastian Schrell, Berkeley Bagwell, Anna Barton, Jenna Baker, Heather Boling, Steve Bolus, Melissa Boslet, Alix Boster, Lee Cates, Kyle Cornelius, Ashley Wood, Colleen Raymonda, Sarah Kellner, and Steven Goodson.
Clementina Adams, professor of Spanish, presented papers at the following conferences: the South Eastern Council of Latin American Studies in New Orleans, Louisiana, the First Annual Conference of Afro-Latin American Studies in Atlanta, Georgia, and the IV Colooquio Internacional: Literatura Hispanoamericana y Sus Valores in Bogotá, Colombia. She has also submitted two articles and a book chapter for publication.


Lisa DeWard Dykstra, assistant professor of Spanish, has an article entitled “Reconceptualizing the Goals for Foreign Language Learning: The Role of Pragmatics Instruction” accepted for publication in the 2009 volume of the American Association of University Supervisors, Coordinators, and Directors of Foreign Language Programs. In addition, she has published two book reviews in the Modern Language Journal.


Jeff Love, associate professor of German and Russian, published Tolstoy: A Guide for the Perplexed, London: Continuum, 2008. He also was invited by António Lobo Antunes, the highly regarded Portuguese novelist, to give a talk on his work, “Determinate Indeterminacy in the Fiction of António Lobo Antunes” (translated into Spanish by Dorismel Díaz, lecturer of Spanish at Clemson), at the Feria Internacional del Libro in Guadalajara, Mexico, in November 2008.

Michael Morris, professor of political science and languages, edited Canadian Language Policies in Comparative Perspective, Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, which will be published next year.

Johannes Schmidt, associate professor of German, published two articles in Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German; they focus on the use of podcasts in the foreign language classroom and discuss recent developments in German popular music. He also has two articles on Johann Gottfried Herder accepted for publication and was elected to a second term as the North American Secretary-Treasurer for the Herder Society.

Daniel J. Smith was promoted to associate professor of Spanish and received tenure in May 2009. He published four articles in 2008 on language acquisition and Spanish/English bilingualism; the most recent is “Family, Friends, and Language Preference Influence on Spanish and English Use in the U.S.” in the Southern Journal of Linguistics. He began serving as a Faculty Senator in 2008.

Graciela E. Tissera, associate professor of Spanish, presented papers at three international conferences in Argentina and Mexico on Borges, Cortázar, and women in literature. She offered a workshop on Spanish for Business and the Professions at the 2008 Modern Language Association Conference, presented two seminars on leadership and global markets in Argentina, and organized the Creative Inquiry Forum at Clemson.


Barbara Zaczek, professor of Italian, and Rosetta D’Angelo were invited to present their book Resisting Bodies: Narratives of Italian Partisan Women in Casa della Memoria e della Storia (Institute of Historical Memory) in Rome on March 2, 2009, and in Biblioteca Comunale di Pesaro on March 6.

A Moment in History: 1977

Student teachers in the Department of Languages volunteered their time to teach French, German, and Spanish to Clemson-area 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in the 1977-78 school year. Professor Pat Wannamaker coordinated the program. Those student teachers that volunteered include, in the first row (from left): Staise Kern, Carolyn Helena, Julie Driskell, and Tena Mody; in the second row: Caroline Ragin, Robin Dunwoody, Laurie Rogers, Vicki Taylor, and Ann Walczyk; and in the third row: Collette Williams, Angela Smith, Mary Schreck, Janice Roeschen, and Ruth DeHaven.

Helene Riley, Founder of the Arnim Award, Retires

Helene M. Riley, Alumni Distinguished Professor of German, retired in June of this year. She came to Clemson’s Department of Languages as Head in 1985, after teaching at Yale University’s Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures for ten years. She earned a two-year business degree in Vienna, Austria, and in 1970 earned her B.A. degree magna cum laude in Music from the University of North Texas. Scholarships made it possible for her to study for M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Germanics at Rice University in Houston (1973, 1975), while rearing her four children.

In 1985 she instituted the Arnim Award, an annual $250 cash gift to a deserving student of German at Clemson University. During her 24 years at Clemson, she formed lasting friendships with her students. Throughout her career, Helene published 16 books, including a history of Clemson University, and 77 articles. Since 2005 she has been the editor of the international journal Germanic Notes and Reviews. In her retirement, she plans to continue the hobbies she enjoys: painting, ceramics, needlecraft, running, and her two grandchildren.
Architecture, Arts and Humanities
Faculty Research Development Award Recipients

YANMING AN, professor of Chinese and philosophy, continues a five-year project (2007-2012), “Translations of Selected Works of Wilhelm Dilthey into Chinese,” involving about twenty distinguished scholars from China, the United States and Germany, to translate the six-volume work from German (with reference to the English version) into Chinese. The first volume, translated by Professor An, will appear in December 2009.

JOHANNES SCHMIDT, associate professor of German, in his project, “The Failure of Theater as a Pedagogical Institution of the Enlightenment,” investigates the evolution of the German theater during the 18th century. The research focuses on two contradicting initiatives: the first, unsuccessfully undertaken by theater reformers, sought to turn the theater into a pedagogical institution for the new rising bourgeoisie, and the second, successfully pursued by absolutist rules, took advantage of the new German stage to turn theatergoers into obedient citizens.

KARYNA SZMURLO, professor of French, organized and directed the interdisciplinary symposium, “Germaine de Staël Today: Currents and Cross-Currents,” at Washington University in St. Louis in May 2009. The conference reunited scholars from around the world. Professor Szmurlo leads the Germaine de Staël Society for Revolutionary and Romantic Studies, which seeks to restore to literary and historical memory the life and works of this early multiculturalist.

YANHUA ZHANG, associate professor of Chinese, in her project “Transforming Chinese Medicine in Contemporary China,” researches the impact of modernization (specifically, scientific testing) on “traditional” Chinese medicine. An ethnographic study in a scientific research environment in China will examine how “traditional” medicine is produced and how information on its uses and benefits is disseminated to the public.

Other Grants and Awards

ALTON BRANT, associate professor of American Sign Language, received a third year of funding from the Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPNet) for his project, “Clemson University State Outreach and Technical Assistance Center.” PEPNet South is one of four regional postsecondary education centers providing technical assistance, professional development, technological activities, and materials for people who are deaf and hard of hearing in secondary and postsecondary institutions.

TOSHIKO KISHIMOTO, associate professor of Japanese, received the 2008-2009 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Clemson University Student Government. She will use the $2,500 research stipend to present her paper, “The Effect of Content Based Summer Immersion Programs on College Students,” at the International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Sidney, Australia, and to conduct research on heritage Japanese education in Australia.

JEFF LOVE, associate professor of German and Russian, received the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities Award for Excellence in Research. The award recognizes his outstanding body of research and publications over the past three years, including a book, Tolstoy: A Guide for the Perplexed, a translation of F.W. Schelling’s Philosophical Investigations into the Essence of Human Freedom (with Johannes Schmidt), and articles on Tolstoy, Dostojevsky, and the French philosopher Alain Badiou.

MARGIT SINKA, professor emerita of German, received the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG)/Goethe-Institut Certific ate of Merit Award at the AATG’s Annual Meeting in Orlando in November 2008, which recognizes outstanding achievement in furthering the teaching of German in schools in the United States.

GRACIELA TISSERA, associate professor of Spanish, was inducted into the Order of the Discoverers by Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society. The Order, one of the organization’s highest honors, “recognizes those who display exceptional service in Hispanic scholarship, Spanish teaching, and promotion of good relations between English- and Spanish-speaking countries.”

BARBARA ZACZEK, professor of Italian, received a $5,000 award from the National Italian American Foundation for developing the Italian Program and for inviting guest speakers to the Italian Summit at Clemson University in November.

Study Abroad
at Zero Degrees
Latitude

Ecuador is the newest addition to the study abroad programs in the Department of Languages. This 30-day program in Quito during the first summer session offers small elementary and intermediate Spanish classes in the mornings, visits to cultural sites, such as markets and museums in the afternoons, and trips to other sites outside of Quito on the weekends. Examples of excursions offered are La mitad del mundo (the equator), the markets of Otavalo, the Incan fortress Ingapirca, and the Amazon forest. Students live with a host family during their stay in Quito. These experiences provide students with an opportunity to improve their language skills inside and outside of the classroom and to learn about the culture of Ecuador.

For more information about the program, contact Program Director Ximena González Parada xenzgonzal@clemson.edu.

Students visit La mitad del mundo (The Middle of the World) in Quito, Ecuador. Pictured, from left, are Charlotte Tyson, Tonya Smith, Alix Pommerenke, Jeremy Hall, Trent Robbins, Jeffrey Lowder, Hunter Clark, David Eckard, Paul Voorhees, and Raymond Smith.

Barry Davis Retires
After Twenty Years of Service

Barry Davis has retired after more than twenty years with the Department of Languages. He was hired to manage the language lab in 1988 for his expertise in desktop computers and their integration into academic instruction. When he started, the lab had twelve Apple IIs, two IBM's, and a Mac SE with LaserWriter.

During his years at Clemson, he guided the listening labs through multiple evolutions of technology and increasingly sophisticated language instruction software: from cassette tapes to the present use of networked computers and voice recognition software. It was his personal mission to help faculty and students make the best possible use of these new learning tools.

Barry is a Vietnam veteran who returned to school on the GI Bill and graduated from Clemson in 1971 with a B.A. in English. Before joining the Clemson staff, he held a number of public service jobs, including foster care worker, museum director, and caretaker of a yoga camp. While at Clemson, Barry served as an editor for The Clemson Polyglot. He plans to use his leisure time writing poetry and building a wooden boat.
Clemson University’s Iota Phi Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish National Honorary Society, held its annual initiation ceremony on April 2. This year’s inductees included Michelle Adams, Julia Foley, Lindsay Hill, Margaret Hobbs, and Sasha Millemann. Also, Professor Graciela Tissera was inducted into the Orden de los Descubridores, one of the organization’s highest honors.

The American Sign Language (ASL) Club was very active this past year. At the Clemson /Georgia Tech football game in October, 25 members of the club signed the National Anthem and the Alma Mater. In November, the club hosted Cinnie MacDougall, a Master Signer. In her presentation, “Icing on ASL Narratives,” she shared how signers must bring life to their signs through non-manual features, body movement, and expressions. The club also sponsored the 5th Annual ASL Spring Seminar in March. Two members of the Deaf Community addressed the seminar: Gail Vaughn, a local storyteller from Seneca, and Pat Hinson, the low-country supervisor for the South Carolina Department of Mental Health Services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons.

Several students presented their Creative Inquiry research this past year. Víctor Gallas Cervo presented his paper “Tráfico, violencia y corrupción en Brasil,” under the direction of Professor Graciela Tissera, at the Creative Inquiry Forum organized by Professor Tissera at Clemson University on November 17. Two groups of students presented their research at the Focus on Creative Inquiry poster session on April 13 at Clemson University. Jennifer McAmis and Abigail Russell (pictured above), as well as Julie Gerdes, Katie Anderson, and Kathryn Cornwell, completed the study of “The Hispanic World through Film,” under the direction of Professor Tissera. They researched how religion, superstition, economy, social conditions, and political conspiracies in Hispanic countries are portrayed in film. Samuel Koenig, Tabitha Ballard, Erin Holland, Stephen Troutman, Louise Goodman, and Dylan Thomas presented “New Methods in Interlanguage Pragmatics Research: Exemplar Generation Research,” under the direction of Professor Lisa Dykstra. The students investigated whether (and how) second language learners acquire cultural aspects of language, such as how to apologize and how to make requests.

(Continued on page 7)
Student Activities and Events, Fall 2008-Spring 2009
(Continued from page 6)

French Club members enjoy pizza at the biweekly Stammtisch at Peppino’s Pizzeria in Clemson. Those seated from the left of the table (moving clockwise) are: Loc Sanders, John Littlejohn, Apoorva Kapadia, Doris Gstach, Ulf Kahmann, Margit Sinka, Matt Conner, Yvonne and Amy Weller, Andreas Weller, and Stefan Zollinger. Other club events included: a hike and cookout at Oconee State Park in October with the Japanese Club and the Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association; the Weihnachtsparty, a traditional Christmas celebration with food, drink, and singing; and the Semesterabschied, the annual farewell party in April where alumni and friends from the community said good-bye for the semester.

German Club members enjoy pizza at the biweekly Stammtisch at Peppino’s Pizzeria in Clemson. Those seated from the left of the table (moving clockwise) are: Loc Sanders, John Littlejohn, Apoorva Kapadia, Doris Gstach, Ulf Kahmann, Margit Sinka, Matt Conner, Yvonne and Amy Weller, Andreas Weller, and Stefan Zollinger. Other club events included: a hike and cookout at Oconee State Park in October with the Japanese Club and the Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association; the Weihnachtsparty, a traditional Christmas celebration with food, drink, and singing; and the Semesterabschied, the annual farewell party in April where alumni and friends from the community said good-bye for the semester.

On November 8 the Department of Languages hosted the 36th Annual Declamation Contest. Over 500 high school students from South Carolina and Georgia competed in the foreign language poetry recitation contest in the following languages: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. At the awards ceremony, gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded to students who placed first, second, and third in their category. Dr. Ralph Ryne and Dr. James Monroe, Department of Languages’ alumni and donors, assisted with the contest and the awards ceremony.
The Clemson Polyglot is published for alumni and friends by the Department of Languages, Clemson University.

Interim Chair – Dr. Barbara Zaczek
Editors – Cathy Robison, Barry Davis, and Roger Simpson

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

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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 our web site. Please click on “Gift” and read about how you can target your gift to one or more of the specific programs listed below.

- Languages: Jordan A. Dean, Sr. Travel Grant-in-Aid
- Languages: American Sign Language
- Languages: The Language and International Trade (L&IT) Annual Conference Fund
- Languages: Declamation Contest
- Languages: Program Development Fund
- Languages: David M. Hamilton Memorial Foreign Language Trust
- Languages: Language and International Trade Annual Travel Grant Fund
- Languages: Coccia Foundation (Italian)
- Languages: Clemson Language Immersion Program (CLIP)

Emeriti Update:

Gastón Fernández, First Chair of Spanish Section

Roger Simpson (M.Ed. '77), Lecturer of Spanish

Professor Emeritus Gastón J. Fernández began his illustrious career as Professor of Spanish at Clemson University in 1962 and was eventually named Alumni Professor of Languages in 1984. Having served as the first chair of the Spanish Section and having coordinated summer study abroad programs in Spain for numerous years, he also authored Temas e imágenes en los Versos sencillos de José Martí and Rescolida, a collection of poems by the Cuban poet Arturo Doreste. After serving as vice-president of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuige from 1967-1968 and from 1973-1974, he was elected president in 1974. Also, he founded in 1972 Iota Phi, the Clemson chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, which is the Spanish National Honorary Society.

Born in 1921 in Placetas, Cuba, Gastón was an attorney there from 1945 until 1960, when he left his homeland after the Cuban Revolution. He married his delightful wife, Elena, also an instructor of Spanish at Clemson, in 1953, and they had two children, María and Gastón, Jr., affectionately called Gastoncito. After arriving in the United States, Gastón received his M.A. from the University of North Carolina in 1967 and his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1971. Gastón retired from Clemson University in 1989 and currently lives in Miami, Florida. After 56 years of marriage, Gastón lost his wife Elena on April 15, 2009, after a two-year battle with cancer. Gastón was a true inspiration and mentor to many of his students, especially to me, and for that, his former students are eternally grateful.