I am pleased to report a number of major moves forward for our department this year. First, two of our professors have been awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor. This is the pivotal point in a professor’s career, when after five years of teaching new classes, developing courses, laying the foundation for their research and serving the department, the university and the community, they submit their record for the scrutiny of their departmental colleagues, their chair, their dean and their university peers. The decision either ends their career at UNCW or affirms their efforts with a promotion and tenure. Dr. Ariana Mrak and Dr. Christopher Dennis became our newest associate professors this year, and we look forward to many years of working with them in making our Spanish major one of the highest quality programs in the state. In another important change, we are welcoming a new colleague to take the reins of our teacher licensure program: Dr. Linwood J. Randolph, who will be joining us in July. Dr. Randolph is very acquainted with the state of language teaching in the public schools, as he comes to us with more than nine years of experience in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro School system. His experience in the public schools is exceptional. He has served as Chair of World Languages at Chapel Hill HS and Carrboro HS, and is a Mentor Teacher and Director of the Academy of International Studies in the school system.

Many other great accomplishments of our faculty and students follow in this newsletter. Two of our most valued colleagues have made the decision to enter phased retirement. Dr. Terry Mount, a Renaissance scholar and former department chair who was instrumental in the formation and growth of our Spanish graduate program, began his three-year phased retirement this year and Dr. Peter Thomas, an internationally recognized scholar of Ecuadorian literature, will start his phased retirement in July. Both have a long record of excellent teaching and service, and we and our students are fortunate to be able to benefit from their continued presence in our classrooms in the near future/coming years.

A major change is the expansion of our department in Leutze Hall. We have been rapidly outgrowing our office complex on the second floor of Leutze and have had to house faculty in five different buildings around campus. Starting July 2012, we will double our space by moving into the office complex on the other wing of the second floor – just across from the Communication Studies Department. Having almost all of us under the same roof will greatly enhance our sense of community and will no doubt benefit all our programs.

In response to the state-wide fiscal crisis, the chairs and heads of 16 UNC foreign language departments, at the urging of their deans, have formed the University of North Carolina Language Assembly with the purpose of exploring how we can preserve small foreign language programs and expand less commonly-taught languages on our campuses by sharing resources. Under this initiative, we are moving forward already with the establishment of the Consortium of the Portuguese-Speaking World, which will enable our Portuguese program to grow. The recently established Russian Studies Consortium has allowed us to offer our new Russian Studies minor. Additionally, in cooperation with NCSU, our department has been able to offer Hindi-Urdu for the first time to our students. While foreign languages are often mentioned as endangered by budget cuts, we have never before experienced such a boom of interest in all of our foreign language classes. Students recognize that we live in a global world, and our enrollment numbers are at the highest ever. Beginning classes in all languages quickly fill, and we anticipate even more growth with the implementation of the new University Studies language requirement. The new major in International Studies, which will also be housed in Leutze within our new office complex, will no doubt prompt even more students to take our upper level classes. We look forward to these and more advances and opportunities to serve our students, our community and our state.

Raymond Burt
FRENCH

• In 2010-11, the French section reached a record number of majors and minors who took some of these exciting upper-division courses drawn on faculty research: French Immigrant Narratives, Spaces of the Francophone World, and Gender and Sexuality in French Cinema.

• Our chapter of Pi Delta Phi, the National French Honor Society, now has 102 members and counting.

• The UNCW French Club, advised by Caroline Hudson, participated in UNCW's Involvement Carnival, held regular conversations in French and gathered for films, crêpes, soccer and picnics and is planning a yearly “Meet Your Professors” night.

• Our fruitful correspondence with the French minister of cultural services continues: Michelle Scatton-Tessier is connecting with a new program from the New York City Bureau du Film to bring recent French films previously unreleased in the U.S.

• Students of French took on a variety of faculty-led research projects.

• Our students participated in several study abroad programs in France in order to master French, gain cross-cultural competency and become global citizens, choosing among an exciting palette of summer programs, semester- and year-long programs. In addition, the two-year TABSA program at Euromed in Marseille offers the possibility of earning a dual degree from UNCW and from our partner institution in France.

• The UNC Consortium Program in Paris, organized by UNCW for more than two decades, welcomed our students into courses such as French language at the Sorbonne, Paris: Capital of World Cinema, 19th and 20th Century French Art and Literature, and French Political Science.

• Other majors and minors studied abroad in Montpellier, Le Havre, Angers, Caen, Chambéry, Cannes, Aix-en-Provence and Tours.

• Once again, our graduates were selected by the French Ministry of Education to teach English in France. Stephanie Karampelas will spend the 2011-12 academic year in Saint-Pourçain S/Sioule near Clermont-Ferrand teaching English to French high school students.

• Our recent graduates were chosen to pursue advanced degrees in law, medicine, pharmacy school and speech pathology. Others also went on to join graduate programs in the humanities (English, French, Spanish, history, art history and student affairs) or have begun careers with import-export businesses, the U.S. government and the U.S. military.
GERMAN

The past 12 months have been an exciting time in the German section. Last spring, we had three majors graduate (Igor Vasilj, Catherine Saulnier and Sarah Ballhaussen), and we have seen more of our majors and minors deciding to study abroad in Germany for a semester or a year. We love to see our students use what they are learning here in the classroom to venture out into the German-speaking world. This year, we have our first honors thesis underway. Thomas Jones has chosen an ambitious project on emotions in the medieval masterpiece, Tristan und Isolde, by Gottfried von Strassburg. We have also had the opportunity to expand our curriculum and offer our courses to a larger portion of the student body by offering a new course in English on the perennially popular subject of Grimms’ fairy tales. The course was a hit—and our largest upper-division course offered yet! Given its success, we will be offering it again next year as well as another similar course on the Enlightenment. Finally, it has been a year of partings and greetings as we said good-bye to our long-time lecturer Lee Tatum who moved to California. We miss her but are happy that she can still be with us in spirit through her online German courses. Fortunately, our lecturer Gisela Reid has been able to help us offer extra sections of German 101, and David Graber has also joined us as a lecturer for the spring semester. And, this past fall semester, our colleague Olga Trokhimenko, welcomed her daughter Katja to the world. Congratulations to her and her family!

PORTUGUESE

Dr. Regina Félix created and taught two new literature courses. “The Brazilian Short Story” that introduced students to one of the most favored Brazilian literary forms practiced by writers, covering different periods, problems, and perspectives through text and also film.

And, “Love and Sex--Women in Brazilian Narratives” exposed students to women’s images in selected Brazilian short stories, testimonies, and films written and directed by both men and women that focused on love, sexuality and gender issues.

With colleague Dr. Jess Boersma (Spanish), Dr. Félix is developing two new courses that are intended at enriching the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures’ curriculum: FLL 395 -Women’s Issues in a World Perspective and a University Studies Thematic Cluster also involving Women’s Studies approaches. Dr. Félix has been invited to give a talk on Brazil for the series on “Global Studies” at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in April and to join the faculty to teach the International Studies introductory course, INT 105. She is happy to contribute her expertise to advance UNCW’s pledge to internationalization with these programs.
**RUSSIAN**

The Russian program at UNCW continues to grow, and we have a number of very positive updates to report! Even with instructor David Graber teaching fulltime for the German section this spring, we were able to offer first- and second-semester Russian, and native speaker Roza Starodubtseva joined us to teach an extra section of first-semester Russian. Our video-email / Facebook “exchange” with English-language students in Chelyabinsk (Siberia), Russia, remains popular and is already in its third semester. The Russian Studies Consortium is well established, and several of our students have taken advantage of the opportunity to take advanced courses in language through the consortium via video link. Additionally, the university has given its approval for a minor in Russian Studies. So, we are on track for further growth!

**LATINO BOOK CLUB**

Latino Book Club, a community outreach group in its fifth year, continues to popularize Latino literature in the United States through its monthly book discussions and book readings. There is no membership fee to join the club, and it is open to all. This group also promotes bilingual literacy and has partnered with the Wilmington independent bookstore, Pomegranate Books, to offer monthly Bilingual Story Time. The book club also provides bilingual books to local low-income Latino children. The Latino Book Club raises money for its outreach programs through its annual yard sale and Bookmarks for Literacy project, which is an unique idea to recycle old and used greeting cards into attractive laminated bookmarks and market them to raise money. Instead of tossing your cards, just gather them up and send it to Latino Book Club (LCB). The cards can be in any language, for any season or any occasion: you name the card and LBC uses it. For more information go to our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/latinobookclub](http://www.facebook.com/latinobookclub), or contact Amrita Das dasa@uncw.edu.
Spanish Club has had a great start this spring semester with a fantastic brand new board! All officers have a high command of Spanish, love practicing and are ready to help other students have fun with the language. Among our projects for this academic year: volunteering at the Latino Center (Amigos International), creating a Spanish Club on campus for elementary to middle school children, tango and salsa lessons, volunteering at the Hispanic Festival, welcoming international students and much more. Spanish Club meets twice a month on Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. What activities does the Club enjoy during meetings? Tons! We play games in Spanish, dine at El Cerro Grande, watch videos and movies in Spanish and just have fun speaking the language in an informal setting. Professor Marianela Jara, the Spanish Club advisor, is very proud of the new board and truly enjoys working with the Club. Visit the club’s page on Facebook for news and updates!

Meet the new Spanish Club Officers:

**Cody Searchfield** (Co-President)
My name is Cody Searchfield, and I am a junior here at UNCW. My first two years of college I attended Wingate University near Charlotte. I recently declared my major in Spanish and wanted to get involved on campus, so I started talking to other students and people on campus who might be interested in Spanish Club. I had the unique opportunity to travel extensively as a child, and I think that having visited more countries than states has driven me to want to learn and understand the Spanish language, especially in today’s diverse, ever-changing world. I feel that too many U.S. citizens are prejudiced towards Latinos, and I want that to change. I have visited many Spanish-speaking countries and provinces including Spain, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean islands. I lived with a host family in Heredia, Costa Rica and learned how much Latino culture is based on the family unit, not unlike our own culture. This summer I will be studying abroad in Spain with Ms. Jara. I am very excited to visit Spain again, have a new host family, further experience the Spanish culture, improve my Spanish and make new friends.

**Stephanie Forgash** (Co-President)
My name is Stephanie Forgash, and I am from Harrisburg, N.C. I am a sophomore at UNCW and have a double major in Spanish and Criminal Justice. I have spoken and studied Spanish for almost six years. Being involved with the Spanish club has given me an opportunity to meet fellow students who also have an interest in the language. I have been able to talk to my peers about their experiences abroad while gaining peace of mind that I will carry with me as I study abroad this summer! So far, I have traveled to Madrid and Toledo, Spain, and this summer I will be going to Valparaiso, Chile. Overall, my experience with the Spanish Club has inspired me and given me more confidence in my Spanish-speaking abilities and in myself as a person.

**Cody J. Polera** (Vice-president)
My name is Cody Polera, and I am a sophomore. I am a double major in Spanish and International Business. Spanish is more than just another language for me. It’s a gateway to other societies, cultures and more. I spent two years in South America where I learned the language simply by speaking with the people. I discovered there is so much more in the world than just the United States and our ways of thinking and doing things. Because of my knowledge of Spanish, a whole new world of people and relationships and experiences has opened up for me. I not only joined the Spanish Club in order to maintain what I have learned of the language, but also to further it and to encounter more of the vibrant world around me and really become a part of what is rapidly becoming an extremely international world.
Hannah Tew (Marketing and Promotions Coordinator and Secretary)  
My name is Hannah Tew, and I am a senior at UNCW. I have a double major in Spanish and business administration with a concentration in international business. I am also completing departmental honors with a thesis written in Spanish of the analysis of cultural differences within the autonomous communities. The Spanish Club interests me because I love the Spanish language and also would like to empower other students to develop their skills in the language and become involved with the Hispanic community. My junior year, I studied as an exchange student in Valencia, Spain. I had the opportunity to visit many different places in Spain and improve my Spanish skills. Upon graduation, I hope to utilize the Spanish language in my professional career.

Carynne Spalding (Treasurer)  
I am from Fuquay-Varina, N.C. I was President of the National Spanish Honors Society Chapter at my high school for three years. My mom is Colombian but never taught me Spanish, so I have been taking it for eight years and have fallen in love with the language. My major is international studies with a minor in Spanish, chemistry and forensics. I wanted to become a board member of UNCW's Spanish Club because I have held leadership positions in Spanish Clubs since middle school, and I wanted to get involved here too! I have been to Colombia and Honduras and will study abroad this summer in Chile. I can’t wait to be fully fluent and am so excited to have a new opportunity to practice Spanish!

Mayra Julissa Zaldivar (Social Chair and Ambassador)  
My name is Mayra Julissa Zaldivar. I was born in Clinton, N.C., and raised in Wallace, N.C., but my nationality is Honduran. I am completing a double major in Spanish and International Business. As a Spanish native, I have a natural passion for Spanish and I feel that the Spanish Club is a great place to place such passion, plus it is a place that allows me to evoke that passion in others. Besides being a native speaker, I have had previous educational experience with Spanish since high school. I have been to Honduras as part of personal vacations and will be going to Peru during Spring Break 2012 as part of Spanish 412: Fronteras Andinas: El Perú Colonial.
PURO TEATRO

Puro Teatro is a Spanish theater group open to all UNCW students and community members who want to expand their use of Spanish through the practice of theatre. The group presents productions for people on campus and in the community who are interested in Spanish-speaking theatre. In fall 2011, Puro Teatro performed a bilingual story reading at a local elementary school as part of the Hispanic Heritage Month, and Luis Valdez’s “Las dos caras del patroncito” for a community audience at Wilmington’s Festival Latino. In spring 2011, Puro Teatro presented Mario Bencastro’s “Los Castigados” for the UNCW and Wilmington community during the Intercultural Festival in honor of Salvadorian author Mario Bencastro, who was visiting UNCW. The author was present at the performance and was moved by the students’ spontaneity and their ability to bring the issues of the play alive. Puro Teatro will be participating at the Cuerpo Sana, Mente Sana’s Health Fair to promote good healthy living through a play written by the students themselves. For more information, go to the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/groups/uncwpuroteatro.

SIGMA DELTA PI

Congratulations to New Members!

In spring 2011, the Rho Lambda Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi initiated four active student members: Eric Robert Hinderliter, Katlyn Leah Minyard, Jameyah A.K. Rogers and Megan Nicole Sharpe. Three active student members were taken into the organization in fall 2011: Clare Remy Engler, Ashley Marie Jarrell and Theresa Marie Stipicevic. The Hispanic Society of Sigma Delta Pi was established as the Prado Society in 1919 at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1925, it became a national honor society. The UNCW chapter was chartered in 1988. There are now over 550 chapters nationwide.
CHILE
The Chile summer study abroad program offers intermediate level Spanish students an opportunity to study in and explore one of the world’s most beautiful countries. Used as a model by the Office of International Programs, the Chile program combines a strong academic component with total cultural immersion. Created by program director and resident instructor Valerie Rider, we are now in our tenth consecutive year. The lovely cities of Valparaíso and Viña del Mar—right on the Pacific Ocean—are home base, but part of our program’s charm is that our students travel off the beaten path, sometimes way off, opening their eyes, hearts and minds in ways they couldn’t have imagined before leaving the U.S.

While the courses, SPN 302 and SPN 303 are lively and interesting and grant six UNCW credits, students report that the most exciting aspects of Chile study abroad are the close, loving bonds they form with their Chilean host families and the extraordinary excursions we make! Here is just a sampling of where we go and what we do: a visit to an alpaca-raising ranch; an excursion to a champion equestrian center; a morning with Doña Blanca, a Huilliche who teaches us about one of southern Chile’s indigenous cultures through food, music and a primer on fishing and farming; a day spent learning about Chilean wine production from grape to goblet; and an all-day hike through La Campana, one of Chile’s breathtaking national parks. At hike’s end, everyone gathers for a well-deserved asado (giant barbecue with everything) and music under the stars.

Student veterans of the Chile program return enchanted with their experience, and amazed at how much Spanish and Hispanic culture they learned while they were in Chile. It’s no wonder they have to be dragged onto the plane!
This summer Professor Boersma took students to Úbeda, Spain, which has hosted nine successful UNCW summer study abroad programs and counting. Located in Andalucía in southern Spain, Úbeda has been declared a World Historic Site by UNESCO. Úbeda, nestled on a ridge overlooking the olive groves of the Guadalquivir valley, exemplifies the quintessential Renaissance town. Our students were surrounded by some of the best examples of 16th-century architecture in the world as they walked to class from their host families’ houses. In addition to classes on Spanish grammar, composition and great literary figures from Andalucia such as Lorca and Jiménez, daily life in Úbeda also included a host of cultural activities, ranging from flamenco dancing and pottery making to guided tours of prestigious museums and cathedrals. Úbeda is conveniently located near several historic attractions as well as renowned cities such as Granada, Seville and Cadiz, which provided for a number of memorable excursions.
Cape Fear Foreign Language Collaborative

Now in its 24th year, Cape Fear Foreign Language Collaborative (CFFLC) continues to support professional development for teachers of Foreign Languages and English as a Second Language. The collaborative meets four Saturday mornings per academic year. Membership includes K-12 teachers, community college teachers, university faculty, graduate students and teacher licensure students from UNCW. The collaborative provides scholarships to deserving students and sponsors a booth at the UNCW Intercultural Festival each February.

The collaborative was fortunate to bring Dr. Glynis Cowell of UNC Chapel Hill to campus in January. She presented a workshop on “Listen Up and Speak Out: Tips for Maximizing Student Interaction in the Foreign Language Classroom.” Other programs during the year provided information on opportunities for Hispanic students at UNCW, the Latino Book Club outreach program, Total Physical Response Storytelling, VARK student learning preferences, classroom activities and resources and Fulbright study in Senegal.

Recipients of scholarships in 2011 were Elena Kon and Ashley Jarrell (UNCW), and Davis Alderson (Hoggard High School).

If you would like more information about meetings and/or would like to be on an email list, please contact Joann McFerran Mount at mountj@uncw.edu.

Students in French, German and Spanish Complete Internships in 2011 and 2012

The Department of FLL offers for-credit internships for French, German and Spanish students each semester and during the summer. Students in French and German complete internships at the UNCW Learning Center, where they tutor French and German students, and at the Children’s Museum of Wilmington, where interns work in the areas of administration, programming, development and delivering experiences to children in the target language. Spanish students complete internships in dozens of agencies, including in the healthcare, educational and non-profit sectors. Students are also able to intern with organizations outside of Wilmington and abroad. Many students, after completing their semester-long internship, continue to volunteer with their agency until they graduate. Some have even gone on to work for their internship agency after graduation.

Each spring, the department hosts the Internship and Volunteer Fair, an annual event that allows UNCW students to learn about the agencies where they can intern and volunteer. In 2011, more than 30 agencies and 50 agency representatives attended the fair and shared information about their organizations with UNCW students. Even more agencies and representatives are expected to participate in the fair, April 16, 2012.

Events in FLL

During 2011–12, faculty members in the department were busy sponsoring and organizing events on campus. Some of those events are highlighted below.
In January 2012, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures hosted the 2012 Spanish Linguistics in N.C. (SLINKI) Conference. This is an annual conference where linguistics scholars and graduate students come together to share their research and learn what their colleagues are working on in the state and region. It also serves as a venue for graduate students to learn more about the field and to share their own research. This year, the conference had 20-minute presentations as well as a poster session after lunch. More than 20 researchers presented their current work and 60 people attended the conference from all parts of North Carolina and the southeastern US. This year’s organizers, Amanda Boomershine, Ariana Mrak and John Stevens, enjoyed working with linguists throughout the region and having the opportunity to bring this event to the campus of UNCW. In 2013, the SLINKI Conference will be hosted at UNC Greensboro.
**Student Spotlight**

**Trevor Huggins** has been with the Foreign Language and Literatures department since fall 2010. Clever Trevor is from Fayetteville, N.C. and currently a junior majoring in accounting. He enjoys intramural sports and going to the beach. He can scan like it's going out of style, staple as if his life depends on it and is ready and willing to assist the faculty and staff with their projects. Good job, Trevor!

**Ryan Trimble**, double major in French and film studies at UNCW and minor in Spanish, has been chosen as a recipient of the prestigious John Philip Couch Scholarship, which is awarded annually by the Executive Board of the North Carolina chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French. The award money will support Ryan's studies in Paris with the Experiential Learning International Paris Field Study Program during fall 2012. In addition to taking courses in Paris, Ryan will intern with a Parisian media outlet.

**CONGRATULATIONS 2011-12 FLL Graduates!**

**2011 Graduates with Licensure in French and Spanish**
Spring 2011 B.A. graduates with licensure include Kate Hanly in FRH K-12 and Carolyn Conn, Laura Mayo, Grace Stanisic, and Raquel Sánchez in SPN K-12. Rose Bachtel ’11 and Tricia Christmas and Kayte Wheeler ’11 graduated with the Master of Arts in Teaching in Spanish. Five members of the group are teaching in North Carolina; three took positions in other states. Best wishes to them all!

**FALL 2011 Graduates**
Black, Kristin Elizabeth
Bowditch, Sarah Catherine
Choi, Amy Yuen-Ling
Cosgrove, Emily Anne
Ferreri, Katherine Ivette
Hogan, Kristen Marie
McGugan, Megan Kaitlin
Prado, Madeleine Marie
Sitton, Leisha Marie
Strickland, Tiffany Lee
Talton, Davis Ann
Wilson, Catherine Marijke

**SPRING 2012 Graduates**
Anglecia Brianna Askew
Meghan Elizabeth Bonk
Ashley Paige Bowles
Alyssa Michelle Bulpett
Candace Denise Campbell
Lauren Elizabeth Connors
Sadena Lynn Corbin
Dustin Kyle Crump
Alice Moura Cruz
Amanda Leigh Dehler
Sarah Elizabeth Deming
Kelsey C. Edwards
Clare Remy Engler
Chandler Rhea Follett
Martin Corey Friedman
Katherine Marie Fussell
Lauren Nicole Gibbons
Patrick Ryan Giery
Lauren Elizabeth Giggard
Megan Connell Gildea
Jasmine Marie Griffith
John Ryan Hasty
Abigail Rose Hicks
Micaela Katharine Hines
Alexandra Elizabeth Hulse
Ashley Marie Jarrell
Courtney Allen Kimbrough
Ashley Michelle Krahn
Rachael Lynne Lange
Morgan Daniel Lear
Frank Machado
Chad Michael Mayer
Heather Elise Melton
Erin Helen O’Leary
Amanda Nicole Powell
Julie Ann Primm
Cydney Jill Russell
Caroline Marie Sferruzzo
Megan Nicole Sharpe
Sarah Price Slaughter
Lawren Ce Smith
Jeremy Paul Smyczek
Autumn Britni Strickland
Hannah Sherrie Tew
Kristen Jeanette Wells
Adam Points
Ashlee Balena was on family leave during fall 2011 to welcome the newest addition to her family, Hannah Arielle Balena. Hannah was born on May 14, less than a week after Dr. Balena gave her final exams in the spring. Dr. Balena continues to be very involved in service and community outreach. In January, she brought Dr. Glynis Cowell from UNC-Chapel Hill to speak for the Cape Fear Foreign Language Collaborative, an organization of educators including Balena and where she serves on the Intercultural Festival, Program and Planning committees. Dr. Balena’s newest venture is researching techniques to bring the magic of the face-to-face classroom online.

Pascale Barthe specializes in Renaissance France. Her current book project examines political, scientific, religious and literary intersections between the kingdom of France and the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. Dr. Barthe has published In Studies in Early Modern France, French Historical Studies, L’espritcréateur, and the MLA’s Approaches to Teaching World Literature series. Barthe teaches a variety of courses on French language, literature and culture.

Ms. Benitez-Galbraith is a full-time lecturer with primary responsibility for teaching lower division Spanish language courses and upper division Business Spanish. She serves on the Advisory Board for UNCW Centro Hispano and is actively involved in several outreach programs to the local Hispanic community. Mrs. Benitez-Galbraith was born and raised in Mexico. Her research focuses on how various images of society, such as gender roles, diversity, and work behavior, are presented in Mexican film and TV from different eras. She has published her research as both book chapters and in scholarly journals such as the Hispanic Research Journal, Journal of San Diego History and the International Journal of Entrepreneurship.

Jess Boersma teaches Spanish literature, culture and language. His research focuses on representations of violence in contemporary Spain. He is the co-editor of the special issues “Membranous Topographies” for the journal Discourse and “The Literary (as) Sovereign: Philosophy and its Others in Spain and Latin America” for Arena Romanistica. He is currently working on a book project with Christopher Dennis titled Restructuring Violence in the Spanish-Speaking World and several articles on social inequality in contemporary Spain, among other projects.

This year has been productive, particularly with regards to his engagement with teaching outside of the classroom. This past summer, Dr. Boersma led students on a study abroad trip to Úbeda, Spain. In his current work with undergraduates, he is directly supervising one Spanish honors project and two internships in addition to sitting on committees for students completing honors projects in German, social work and public and international affairs. At the graduate level, he is overseeing or collaborating on projects with students working in Spanish, creative writing and chemistry. Dr. Boersma was named an Applied Learning Faculty Fellow for spring 2012 and, in partnership with Dr. Regina Felix, received a College of Arts and Sciences Summer Curriculum Development Initiative Award for 2012. Dr. Boersma values service work that vigorously protects and promotes research, effective teaching and faculty governance.

Amanda Boomershine teaches courses in Spanish language, Hispanic linguistics, and seminars on topics such as service-learning, immigration, language variation and pedagogy. In addition, she coordinates the Spanish Language Program at UNCW.

Her research areas include socio-phonetics, language variation, and speech perception, and she has published a monograph, book chapter and articles in these areas. She has presented her research locally, nationally and internationally. Dr. Boomershine serves as the coordinator of the department’s internship program and is co-organizer of the 2012 Spanish Linguistics in North Carolina Conference, which is being hosted by UNCW. She also serves as the vice-president of the local chapter of the United Nations Association and is the newsletter editor for the local chapter of the American Association of University Women.

Raymond Burt is the chair of the department and teaches at least one German class each semester. This year, in addition to his German course, he taught a Cornerstone Learning Community called “The Soundtrack of History” which paired a music course and a “Uni” course. In the spring semester, he is teaching an upper level German course, The German Novella through our distance-learning classroom with half of the students in Appalachian State University. The effort is made possible through the UNC German Studies Consortium of eight UNC member campuses. Dr. Burt is the coordinator of this consortium and interim coordinator of the UNC Russian Studies Consortium, as well. This year, in his field of research, Dr. Burt published two book reviews for Modern Austrian Literature and three book chapters: “A Genuine Dilemma: Ruzowitzky’s The Counterfeiters as Moral Experiment,” which appeared in New Austrian Film; “Errötendfolgteerihren Spuren: The Enigmatic Friederich Salomo Krauss” in Contested Passions: Sexuality, Eroticism, and Gender in Modern Austrian Literature and Culture; and “The Feminist Anti-Quest in Marlene Streeruwitz´ Entfernung” in Modern Austrian Prose. Burt continues to serve on the executive committee of the UNC Faculty Assembly that meets in Chapel Hill and represents faculty interests, and he was elected vice president of that organiza-
search committee for a new UNCW provost.

**Maria Camí-Vela**’s scholarship achievements this year continue to be related to her research about women filmmakers. She wrote two film reviews, *Flowers from Another World* and *The Secret Life of Words in the Directory of World Cinema: Spain* (Intellect). She also published an article about Holocaust survivor and French director Marceline Loridan-Ivens titled “From Disgust to Humanity: Marceline Loridan-Ivens’ physical and cinematic journey from *Chroniqued’un été* (1961) to *La Petite Prairie aux Bouleaux* (2003).” The article was published in *La piel en la palestra. Estudios Corporales II*. Her more recent research on women, cinema and immigration resulted in the presentation of papers in Passau (Germany), Barcelona (Spain), New York and Florida. Professor Camí-Vela organized the visit of filmmaker Joseph Johnson-Camí and the screening of his documentary *Tales from the G-20*. In collaboration with professor Susan Richardson from Film Studies, Camí-Vela conducted a 30-minute interview with the director of the documentary that aired on UNC-TV. Camí-Vela has served as external evaluator for the journals *Hispania* and *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies*. She is the Spanish coordinator in the FLL Department.

Impero” at the Philological Association of the Carolinas conference this year. In addition to this research, Dr. Chandler’s review of *Hacia un poeta de Christian de Jesus González Dávila* by Antonio Escobar Delgado was published in the *Latin American Theatre Review*.

**Amrita Das** specializes in U.S. Latino literature and culture and the construction of collective identities through literature. Her current research examines the emergence of transnational Latino authors writing of Latin American issues. She also has an interest in contemporary post-modern Latin American and Caribbean literature, especially issues of race, gender and class. Das grew up and studied in India and tries to bring her unique perspective to studying different cultures. She is the founder and organizer of the *Latino Book Club* that promotes U.S. Latino literature through reading and discussion. She is also the founder of the student theater group Puro Teatro and currently, the faculty advisor to the group.

**Andrea Deagon** teaches Latin as well as courses in Greek and Roman mythology, literature and civilization. Deagon coordinates the classical studies minor, an interdisciplinary program that is currently undergoing an expansion to incorporate new courses in history, philosophy, religion, and art history. She continues her research into the dynamics of ethnicity, gender, social class and commerce in both ancient Roman dance and oriental dances of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Her article, “The Golden Mask,” is forthcoming in *Feminist Studies*.

**Christopher Dennis** teaches courses in Spanish language and Latin American literatures and cultures. His research focuses on Colombia and more specifically topics related to Afro-Colombian cultures. This year, he published a book titled *Afro-Colombian Hip-Hop: Globalization, Transcultural Music and Ethnic Identities*. Additionally, his article titled “The Current and Future State of Afro-Colombian Prose Fiction” was published in the *Afro-Hispanic Review*. Dennis is now working with colleague Jess Boersma on an edited volume addressing violence in Hispanic America and Spain tentatively titled *Restructuring Violence in the Spanish-Speaking World*. Lastly, he will present his paper “Untold Histories: Rewriting Blackness in Hazel Robinson Abraham’s No Give Up, Maan!” at the IX International and Interdisciplinary Conference of the Afro-Latin/ American Research Association in San José, Costa Rica in August 2012.

**Regina R. Félix** participated in the conference *Mulheres da Retomada: Women Filmmakers in Contemporary Brazilian Cinema* at Tulane University last February by presenting a paper on comedy and laughter as political statement and response. As a result, Dr. Félix was invited to select ten films to represent the Comedy section of the *Directory of World Cinema – Brazil* put together by the prestigious UK publisher Intellect Ltd. In collaboration with colleague Dr. Scott Jual (French), Dr. Félix is finalizing the volume *Face à Face: Brazil-France Liaisons Exposed-Art-Theory-Politics*, which includes new approaches to the long standing exchanges between the two countries. Dr. Félix wrote two articles in the last year and is scheduled to present them at both the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association in March and at the 54th International Congress of Americanists in July.

**David Graber** spent six weeks during summer 2011 in Moscow as the recipient of a Fulbright/US Dept. of Education grant for teachers of Russian. For the spring 2012 semester, Graber has been teaching courses in introductory German alongside the introductory Russian courses he has offered since last year. He also taught...
a “German for Travelers” course for the Osher Institute. Graber has studied and/or taught in Russia, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. His current research project involves attitudes toward multilingualism and development of a system for acquiring reading ability in multiple-related languages.

Emmanuel Harris II was on research reassignment during fall 2011 in which he continued investigation on his upcoming book about the use of African religion in contemporary Latin American literature. He traveled throughout Ecuador and did an extended stay in Esmeraldas, home of many Afro-Ecuadorians. He was also able to build on previous research completed last year in Panama and Cuba where he explored renowned Cuban authors such as Inés María Martiatu (Sobre lasolas y otroscuentos, 2008) with UNCW alumni and colleagues and interviewed Alberto Abreu Arcia, the 2010 Casa de América Prize recipient. This spring, his book chapter, “Talking Back with Ana Lydia Vega” was published in Critical Perspectives on Afro-Latin American Literature ( Routledge Studies on African and Black Diaspora – 2011). His service to the university and community was highlighted last fall when he helped facilitate the Sixth District Council Meeting of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. More than 300 men of Omega congregated in Leutze Hall and Cameron Auditorium for a series of concurrent sessions and organizational discussions. Harris currently serves as the coordinator of the Spanish Graduate Program, where thanks to his dedicated efforts as well as those of his peers, he shepherded the introduction of the Spanish BA/MA (3+2) Program.

Lizzy Irvin teaches lower-division Spanish courses as well as Spanish for Health Professionals for UNCW’s School of Nursing. Irvin is active in the Latino community, working with various outreach organizations. She also educates low-income Latino families on nutrition through her program Cuerpo Sano, Mente Sana. Her research interests include gender images in Mexican film and telenovelas. She has co-authored an article titled “Gender Images and the Evolution of Work Roles in Mexican Film: A Pilot Content Study of Pre- and Post-NAFTA Periods” that was published in Hispanic Research Journal.

Marianella Jara teaches beginning and intermediate Spanish courses. She loves taking students abroad during the spring and summer breaks. In summer 2012, Jara will take her fourth group to Spain. This time, her year-old daughter, Paz Angelica, will come along. She is so excited to get her daughter’s first stamp on her passport. Students will be able to stay with host families, practice Spanish with local students, visit some of the most renowned cities and monuments in southern Spain and immerse themselves in the culture. Jara continues as the advisor to the Spanish Club. She has been busy reorganizing the Club this spring semester and is very happy and proud to report that the club is in great hands with a wonderful new board. Along with the Spanish Club, she organizes different projects to help the Hispanic community in Wilmington and activities to foster appreciation for the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. In addition, Ms. Jara is the co-editor of the FLL newsletter. Her plans for the 2012-13 academic year involve more study abroad programs to new locations and new international volunteer opportunities and projects.

Scott Juall’s primary interests at UNCW are teaching and student-faculty research collaborations. Juall was awarded the Spring 2010 Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award and the Spring 2009 Discere Aude Teaching Excellence Award. In fall 2011, Juall directed a student’s departmental honors thesis: La quêté d’identité à travers la liminalité dans Persépolis de Marjane Satrapi (The Quest for Identity through Liminality in Marjane Satrapi’s Persepolis).

Juall is interested in foreign language teaching methodologies. In fall 2011, he presented “The Morality of the Story in Charles Perrault’s Le Petit Chaperon Rouge, 1697)” at the Cape Fear Foreign Language Collaborative. An enthusiastic supporter of the Collaborative, he regularly attends its meetings each semester. Professor Juall represents the Department of Foreign Languages as a faculty senator and is also a member of the Center for Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Committee (CSURF). In fall 2011, he served on the panel “A Tenured Look at Teaching,” at the first annual “A Celebration of Tenure: Rewards, Rights and Responsibilities.”

Also in fall 2011, Juall’s article “Utopian Dimensions of François Rabelais’s Pantagruelian Cycle” was published in MLA Approaches to Teaching Rabelais. He presented “Putting the French on the North American Map: The Performance of Possession in Travel Narratives and Cartography Portraying 16th-Century French Voyages to Canada” at the 2011 UNCW College Day. The presentation represented part of a book-length study of ideology and imperialism in early modern French travel literature that he is currently writing. Juall is presently co-editing a volume on Franco-Brazilian rapport titled Face-à-Face: Brazil-France Liaisons Exposed, Art - Literature - Politics with Regina Félix and continues to undertake research on 20th-century modernist artistic and literary movements in Paris and Barcelona.

In spring 2012, Professor Juall taught the honors seminar “Travel Writing in Paris” that included a study of numerous genres of travel writing on and in Paris. The class will spend 10 days in Paris and London where they will participate in a travel writing workshop.

Although during Juall’s honors seminar “Travel Writing in Paris” students studied travel writing and participated in a related workshop, it was not going to be all...
work-work-work—not in Paris! Additional activities included visits to the Louvre, Musée d’Orsay, Centre Pompidou, Notre Dame Cathedral, Eiffel Tower; walking tours of important neighborhoods where celebrated writers and visual artists created; and attendance at a representation of Ionesco’s absurdist play La Cantatrice chauve (The Bald Soprano). French language immersion in Paris is also cultural study!

**Yoko Kano** wears many hats. She teaches the Japanese language and culture courses, serving as the director of Foreign Language Resource Center and also as the coordinator of Asian Studies Minor at UNCW. Kano is the director of an outreach program, the North Carolina Teaching Asia Network (NCTAN), that educates school teachers in North Carolina about East Asia. NCTAN collaborates with Columbia University and the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) to offer East Asian courses to North Carolina teachers. Kano uses technology extensively to enhance her students’ learning of language and culture. Her Japanese class has been working on exchanges with Mie University and Osaka Kyoiku University that give students the opportunity to use Japanese beyond her classroom. Although busy with teaching and outreach activities, she is also able to enjoy cooking, sewing, gardening, and most importantly, playing with her seven-year-old son.

P. J. Lapaire’s priority remains dedication to teaching and to students. On the research front, he is working on French pop culture and urban social issues, especially France’s colonial wars in Indochina and Algeria and their impact on French society to this day.

Last spring, **Derrick Miller** spent the summer visiting archives in North Carolina and Pennsylvania collecting information about the Moravians and other German-speaking immigrants to North America.

Much of this material found its way into a new course on German fantasies of and experiences in the Americas that is being offered during the spring semester, as well as into an article he is writing on 18th century German family structures.

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**Joann McFerran Mount** teaches classes in Spanish language, Spanish American literature and civilization and methodology of foreign language teaching. In addition, she coordinates the Foreign Language Teacher Education Program and supervises teaching interns in the practicum semester. She is coordinator and contact person for the Cape Fear Foreign Language Collaborative, an alliance of foreign language teachers at all levels, from kindergarten through university level. Her research interests and publications are in the areas of Spanish American literature and teaching strategies and techniques. Her article, “Neruda Reborn: His Life in Children’s Literature,” was published in April 2011 in the Bookbird: A Journal of International Children’s Literature (Johns Hopkins UP).

**Terry Mount** teaches classes in Spanish language, literature and civilization and Spanish-English translation. His department duties during phased retirement are limited to teaching two classes per semester through academic year 2013-14. Mount’s scholarly research focuses on Spanish medieval literature, particularly in hagiography and miracle literature, with special emphasis on the works of Gonzalo de Berceo and Alfonso X el Sabio. During 2010, he gave a presentation on incorporating dramatization of literary works and historical moments in literature and civilization classes at the 2011 Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky. In an article to be published in 2012, Mount chronicles the evolution of one such dramatization—Berceo’s “Clérigo embriagado,” from Milagros de Nuestra Señora — and presents its script.

**Ariana Mrak** teaches Spanish language and linguistics and specializes in courses for heritage speakers. She coordinates the Spanish for Bilingual Speakers Program at UNCW that consists of a two-course track for students who grew up speaking Spanish at home. Her recent articles, “Heritage Speakers and the Standard: Fighting Linguistic Hegemony” (2011), and “Empowering Spanish/English Speakers in the United States: Reclaiming their Bilingualism” (2010), as well as national and international conference presentations, highlight the importance of Heritage Language Education.

**Gisela Reid** teaches beginning German language classes part time. Reid was raised in Bremen, Germany, a destination spot of the German department’s and Cameron School of Business’ annual month-long summer Bremen Germany study abroad program. Reid fills the other part of “part-time” with golf, painting, yoga, mah-jongg, travel and gardening.

**Valerie Rider** teaches beginning and intermediate level Spanish and is also resident director of the summer study abroad program in Valparaíso, Chile. This summer, Rider will lead back-to-back programs. The first program will walk an honors group across northern Spain on the ancient pilgrimage route, the Camino de Santiago. Four days later, Rider will take students to Chile for Summer Session II. This semester, as an honors
Michelle Scatton-Tessier is associate professor of French and director of the Women's Studies & Resource Center at UNCW. In 2011, she invited 14 new members into the French international honor society, Pi Delta Phi. Her article, “The Place(s) of Agnès Varda,” was published in The MIFLC Review. Scanton-Tessier also completing a book review for Andrew Asibong’s François Ozon, 2011 and writing an article, “The Pregnant Body in Contemporary French Cinema: Arrest and Alarm.”

John Stevens’ areas of specialization are Hispanic linguistics (sociolinguistics and phonology) and second language acquisition. He teaches courses in Spanish language and Hispanic linguistics. His research interests include Spanish dialectal variation and the acquisition of L2 Spanish phonology. Stevens’ article “Vowel Duration in Second Language Spanish Vowels: Study Abroad Versus At Home Learners” appeared recently in the journal Arizona Working Papers in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching.

David Schultz, with the support of our department, had the opportunity to attend the 2011 American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) National Conference in Seattle. One of the ASLTA’s objectives was “To provide an effective avenue for the exchange of information regarding methods of teaching and materials related to the instruction of ASL and Deaf Studies.” As a result, David recognized the need to provide students more interactive tools to enhance their signing skills inside and outside of the classroom. The new materials have been instrumental for our students in learning the language.

Joy Schultz teaches courses in introductory and advanced American Sign Language. This year students at UNCW successfully founded the first American Sign Language (ASL) Club. Thanks to the ASL Club’s recent activities and efforts, many more UNCW students have been made aware of sign language, deaf culture and ASL courses. As the Club’s advisor, Joy is excited to see the ASL program expand and hopes this learning activity may help to bridge the gap between the deaf, the hard of hearing and the hearing. Students have an opportunity to meet new people, learn new signs and gain an appreciation for another culture.

Roza Starodubtseva joined the UNCW team in spring 2012 and teaches Introductory Russian. She has been teaching Russian to Americans since 1996 and has been recognized statewide by North Carolina’s Governor and in local media as well. Starodubtseva personally designed and implemented several language programs, including courses for OLLI at UNCW. She also actively participated in the development of two online academic Russian language courses for NC Virtual Public School, where currently, she teaches online. In 2011, she taught a summer language immersion program at ASU and participated as a delegate from the NC Virtual Public School in Washington, D.C., in the 30th Annual World Russia Forum. Additionally, Ms. Starodubtseva continues to work in the area of teaching methodology. Her particular research interest is in language learning efficiency improvement through integration of history, art and social culture into language studies. Her next project is writing a Russian language textbook for children, which emphasizes that concept.

Eric Tessier teaches lower-division traditional and online French classes. In fall semester, for the first time in the history of the department, he taught two online classes from France, with weekly two-hour synchronous classes and supplementary asynchronous assignments. He is continually active in e-learn dialogues and workshops at UNCW. Tessier has been chosen by Office of E-Learning as part of the Virtual Classroom Adoption Committee to evaluate new virtual classrooms. The tools currently under review are Adobe Connect, Blackboard Collaborate, Cisco WebEx Training Center and Saba Centra.

Peter Thomas will be entering phased retirement in fall 2012. He is and will continue to be active in research in Latin American narrative. His most recent article “Las Palabras y la Selva en El país de la canela de William Ospina” is related to his ongoing research in historiographic metafiction. During fall 2011, he developed and taught a graduate
seminar related to this research. He is also currently engaged in research on Caribbean narrative, mostly centered on that of the Dominican Republic. He has travelled frequently to Santo Domingo in recent years and will continue his research there during the summer of 2012. His teaching during his phased retirement will focus on conversation and composition courses at the 300 level using a communicative methodology. During his phased retirement, Dr. Thomas looks forward to spending even more of his time researching Spanish American literature and Latin American studies in general as well as traveling in Latin America and Spain.

Olga Trokhimenko teaches all levels of German language, literature and culture but specializes in medieval culture and mythology, gender studies and literary folklore. This past year, with the generous support of two grants—the Faculty Summer Award from the UNCW Center of Teaching Excellence and the Global Citizenship Award from the Office of International Programs—she developed a collaboratively taught course, Study Abroad in Germany. The course is intended to prepare students for either a semester- or a yearlong study in Germany, especially in the Baden-Württemberg area, the most popular destination for UNCW students participating in the UNC-EP Study Abroad Program. Trokhimenko also enjoyed teaching for the first time an exciting new course on the history of the German language. She stayed active in her research, presenting and organizing panels at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association, publishing a book review and two articles: on the touching medieval tale of two lovers, Tristan and Isolde, and on representation of male pregnancy in medieval comic tales. She continued to serve as a coordinator of the German section, closely working with her colleagues, advising the students, promoting the German major and minor and serving as the German Club faculty advisor.

However, the most important event of this year was the birth of her first child, a daughter, Katja Rincon, who came into this world on November 8, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., 6 lbs. and 12 oz.

Maike Walbrecht works for both Foreign Languages and Literatures and the Office of International Programs, teaching FLL 105, a course for international exchange and degree students, while coordinating UNCW's intensive ESL Program, which began in 1993. As her native language is German, she has led summer programs to Bremen, Germany with FLL. Highlights of 2011 included a fruitful recruiting trip to Chile and Argentina, which resulted in plans being made for a group of Argentinian students to come from the Rosario area for a summer program this year: SEA (Summer English Academy). On a more personal journey, Maike traveled to Poland (the former East Prussia) with her mother, who had not been back since WWII. It was an amazing experience! Maike looks forward to a rewarding year with ESL enrollment looking healthy and increasing its diversity.
IN MEMORY OF SEAN WRIGHT

UNCW alumnus Nieka “Sean” Wright passed away on April 29, 2012. Sean completed his M.A. in Spanish in December 2011. Sean, a native of Columbus County, N.C., completed his B.A. at UNC Greensboro. He was an avid language learner and had recently traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico. He had plans to return to Latin America in the near future before pursuing his PhD in religion and philosophy. While at UNCW, Sean served as a conversation leader in the Spanish Conversation Center.

The Department of Foreign Languages is working on creating a graduate fellowship to honor Sean. This fellowship will be granted to hard working graduate students like Sean who demonstrate high commitment and dedication.

Farewell, Sean. You will be missed.