

# LINGUA FRANCA: THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

VOL 2. MARCH 2018

## CHAIR UPDATE: BY DR. ELIZABETH LEWIS

This academic year has been full of excitement for Modern Languages and Literatures. In addition to the other stories in this year's newsletter, I thought you might be interested in some current statistics about the department. We teach 6 languages—Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, and Spanish—from beginning to advanced levels, and enroll approximately 1200 students in all of our courses each semester. We have 18 full time faculty and 12 part-time instructors, and we host 7 international Visiting Language Coordinators from China, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan and Spain each year to run our conversation hours, and provide tutoring for our students. These language coordinators live in our living and learning community in nearby South Hall with 16 to 18 of our language students each semester. We also sponsored four faculty-led study abroad programs this year during spring break and the summer to France, Québec, Poland and Spain. As you can see by these numbers, and by the stories below, we've been busy, and we've enjoyed every minute of it!

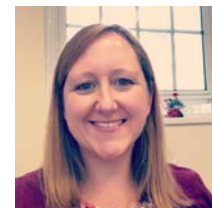
### SOUTH HALL: LANGUAGES LIVING & LEARNING COMMUNITY



What's cooking in South Hall? Starting in Fall 2017, our Visiting Language Instructors and Coordinators hosted cooking demos to share some of their favorite recipes from home with our students. Some of the dishes included Shawarma, Strudel and Egg Rolls.

### DEPARTMENT NOTES:

**Jennifer Buist** started as our Office Manager in June. She received her B. A. from California State University, Fullerton in Communications with a minor in American Studies. After graduation, she went on to work in Post Production in the TV/Film industry for 12 years. In 2008, she moved to Europe where she lived in England and Germany for 6 years. Now she is enjoying her time in Virginia and is happy to help with any questions you might have.



**Social Media:** Stay up to date with Modern Languages and Literatures all year by following us on **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**. We're easy to find... search **umwmdll** on all 3 sites and then Like, Follow and Share!



Chinese New Year Celebration. 2/24/2018



*For Valentine's Day, Our students shared what they love about Modern Languages*

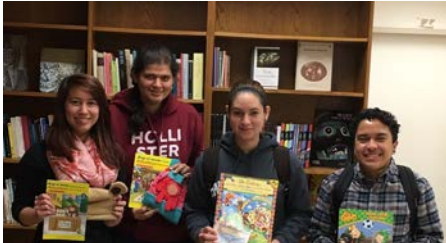
**TOMA MI MANO / HOLD MY HAND:** For two weeks Spanish Majors and other UMW students who speak Spanish led by professor María Laura Bocaz volunteered at Hugh Mercer Elementary School by greeting the new coming students, walking them to their classrooms, and assisting them during breakfast. The program was originally thought to help Spanish speaking students who do not speak English, but ended up being much more than that: a wonderful opportunity to get involved with our Fredericksburg multilingual community



*Toma mi mano / Hold my hand volunteers: Francisco Palomo, Marlen Reyes, Dra. María Laura Bocaz, Chloe Chindgren, Thommas Peterson, Joshua Helsey, Zoe Cooper, Rachel Manning, Emma Greenberg*

### **BILINGUAL BOOKS FOR**

**CHRISTMAS:** Spanish Majors and faculty joined the annual COAR's gift box drive by donating books in Spanish as well as winter essentials (hats & gloves) to Latino children in our community this Christmas. In only one week, we were able to gather 21 colorful pairs of gloves, hats, and wonderful books. We are looking forward to it next Christmas.



*Sabrina Sherman, Marlen Reyes, Maria Duran and Zander Leon delivering our donations for the Christmas drive.*

**JUAN CARLOS GALEANO PH.D.:** Juan Carlos Galeano, a poet and filmmaker from the Colombian Amazon, and Professor of Spanish at Florida State, spent a day in our department speaking with our Spanish 306 class and then presented his latest documentary “El Río” with a discussion that followed.



*Dr. Juan Carlos Galeano with Dr. Jeremy Laroche, Associate Professor of Spanish*

### **STUDENT PROJECTS:**

**Bernice Kear**, senior Biochemistry major who is minoring in Latin American Studies, presented her Spanish 492 (Individual Study) paper “La inmigrante en marcha: Una lectura de Viandante en Nueva York de Osiris Mosquea” at the 2018 Middle Atlantic Council on Latin American Studies (MACLAS) Conference at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. At the conference, Ms. Kear received an invitation to submit her paper for publication in the Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies and for consideration to be awarded the 2018 Juan Espadas Prize for excellence in undergraduate research.



*Bernice Kear at MACLAS 2018*

Spanish Majors **María Duran** and **Meryl Menezes** travelled to Princeton University during Spring Break, to conduct research of the Jose Donoso Papers as part of their Undergraduate Research project with Dr. Maria Laura Bocaz. The research, entitled ““Queering the Archive: el empleo del género en la Manuela de *El lugar sin límites* de José Donoso. Tensiones y desafíos de su proceso creativo” [“Queering the Archive: Gender Agreement in “Manuela” of Hell Has No Limits by José Donoso. Tensions and Challenges Behind the Character's Writing Process”], was made possible through Undergraduate Research Travel Funds awarded by the College of Arts & Sciences.



*María Duran and Meryl Menezes at Princeton University*

### **Modern Languages and Literatures Faculty Awards and Publications:**

**Leonard Koos**, Associate Professor of French, received the Waple Professorship award for his book project titled “Une Drôle d’Occupation: Conformity, Dissidence, and Popular Culture in France, 1940-1944”.

**Ana García Chichester**, PhD, Professor of Spanish, published “El ideario decimonónico y la imagen de la mambisa: Orfandad y marginalización en la obra de Emilio Bacardí.” *Del Caribe* (Santiago de Cuba), No. 66 (2016): 30-37.