

# LINGUA FRANCA

Newsletter of University of Mary Washington  
Modern Languages and Literatures



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## Chair Update

by Dr. Marcel Rotter

How is life at UMW's Modern Languages and Literatures in a world that many see as "post covid"? Instruction has returned to 100% in-person delivery. Our events, be it talks, film screenings, cooking workshops, or public poetry readings can be held in front of a live audience again. We are back to "learning by doing". We have students traveling for research, local teachers learning Arabic in our public workshop to serve their students better, students volunteering at the foodbank, and a professor leading a group of alumni to South America. Our teaching reaches far beyond the classroom walls.

Pictured above, students studying German immigration to the U.S. visit the archeological site of the first Germanna Colony. The head archeologist prompts them to build a palisade fence with branches half the size they would have been in 1714. They fail but gain valuable insights into the living conditions of German indentured servants at the 18th century British frontier. Learning by doing can take many forms. We are happy to show our students the world inside and outside the classroom.

# Student Projects

## SPANISH MAJORS RESEARCH TRIP TO MADRID



Spanish majors **Madeline Killian** and **Julia May** began their winter break with a trip to Madrid to gather research for writing their senior theses with their faculty mentor, Dr. Betsy Lewis.

Maddie is working on women and science in 18th century Spain, and Julia on women and the arts in the tertulia culture of 18th century Spain. They worked in archives at the Sociedad Económica Matritense, and at the Biblioteca Nacional, and visited museums including the Prado, La Real Academia de

Bellas Artes, El Capricho, and the Palacio Real.

They also enjoyed the beautiful holiday decorations and markets of Madrid. They were supported by funds from the College of Arts and Sciences, and Spanish alumna Ms. Sheila W. Cockey.

## CHANTALL DUVAL-PEÑA ATTENDS FLAVA 2022

During the fall semester of 2022, Spanish major and senior student **Chantall Duval-Peña** attended the Foreign Language Association of Virginia (FLAVA) bi-annual conference held in Williamsburg (October 6-8).

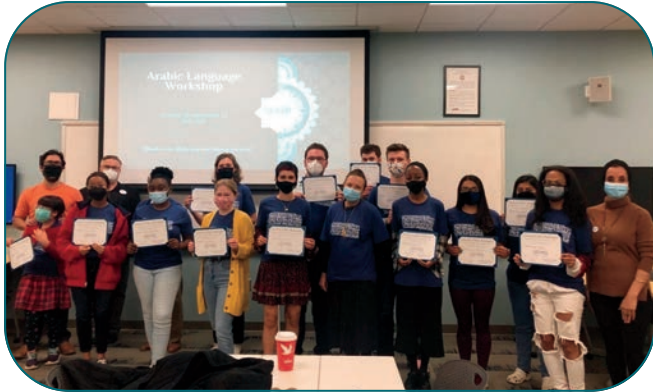
Ms. Duval-Peña attended sessions on pedagogy, technology, teaching and learning. She was excited to hear from educators, administrators and scholars from throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and learn more about the challenges and opportunities of second language teaching.

Her participation in the FLAVA conference was made possible by a generous grant from UMW alumna and former Spanish major, Ms. Sheila W. Cockey.



# Department Updates

## ARABIC WORKSHOP



Participants of the Arabic Workshop, Fall 2022

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity and expressed interest in more workshops. Students received a certificate of completion at the conclusion of the workshop. The event is sponsored by MDLL and Continuing and Professional Studies.

Senior Lecturer, **Maysoon Al-Sayed Ahmad**, has started offering an Arabic for Beginners Workshop to students, faculty, staff, and the local community. The workshop is offered as HyFlex, integrating synchronous and asynchronous experiences. Her session in Fall of 2022 had 57 participants total, with the majority being Stafford county elementary, middle, and high school teachers.

## FACULTY AWARDS

Congratulations to **Jennifer Hansen-Glucklich** and **María Laura Bocaz-Leiva** on being awarded the Waples Professorship for 2023.

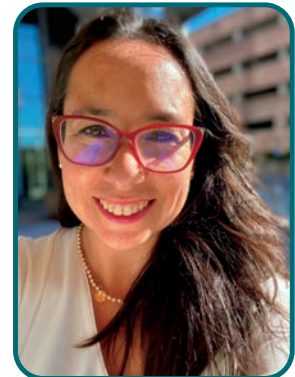
Established in honor of Shirley Van Epps Waple, a 1952 Mary Washington graduate, the nomination-based award recognizes faculty members who have made significant contributions to their scholarly or creative areas of expertise.

**María Laura Bocaz-Leiva** will work on a book manuscript dedicated to interpreting Jose Donoso's manuscripts as he wrote the novel, *Hell Has No Limits*. The book entitled, *José Donoso Writer of Hell Has No Limits (José Donoso escritor de El lugar sin límites)* will contribute new interpretations of the novel as well as a model for scholars who work with the process of production of a literary work. She plans to launch the book in Santiago, Chile, in 2024 during the celebration of Jose Donoso's 100th birthday.

**Jennifer Hansen-Glucklich's** project investigates German memorials as historical and cultural phenomena with a focus on underlying motifs rooted in German myth. These motifs, including nationhood, origins, sacrifice, death, renewal, and autochthony are depicted in German memorials across several historical periods (pre-Christian, pre-modern, modern, and postmodern). In each of these periods, memorials have functioned in distinct ways, yet the motifs endure. She considers how these themes persist, and how these durable objects (the memorials themselves) act as mnemonic devices, helping to transmit culture to new generations.



Jennifer Hansen-Glucklich



María Laura Bocaz-Leiva

# Community Outreach

## FREDERICKSBURG REGIONAL FOOD BANK



María Laura Bocaz-Leiva, LaToya Brown, Luisa Restrepo

On September 22, as part of the Latino identities Month celebration on campus, **Ms. LaToya Brown**, Corporate Relations Coordinator for the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank, gave an informative talk in a room full of students interested to learn how they could use their Spanish to serve the Latino community in Fredericksburg.

The presentation was followed by questions and answers from the public. Finally, the

president of the Latino Student Association, Ms. Luisa Restrepo, handed a certificate to Ms. Brown in appreciation of her contribution to the Latino Identities Month Celebration here at University of Mary Washington.

## UMW ALUMNI: "ON THE ROAD"

Professor Jeremy Larochelle led a group of UMW Alumni on the latest "On the Road" trip to Costa Rica.

From rainforests and rivers to volcanoes and beaches, the group experienced a variety of ecosystems, habitats, and engaging activities.

They started the trip in the country's lush Caribbean lowlands, continuing to Arenal Volcano and its nearby hot springs, before heading to the Pacific coast for the chance to swim, snorkel, and cruise along the shoreline. A blend of nature and culture made for an ideal adventure for anyone seeking an informative, well-rounded experience.

Go to [alumni.umw.edu](http://alumni.umw.edu) and search for "On the Road" for information on the next trip!



The group under a 400-year old Ceiba tree on the Arenal volcano. It survived the eruption of 1968, which decimated everything else in its path.