

2016-2017

NEW Dual Degree Programs



Over the last couple of years, LCL has made a significant effort expand the number of dual degree programs it offers that partner the intensive study of a foreign language and culture with training in a professional field. The main goal of these programs is to offer real-life experience in navigating the cultural challenges of work in a foreign country.

Inspired by the long-standing German and Engineering program that has been highly successful under the direction of Professor Friedemann Weidauer, the centerpiece of this initiative has been to extend the Engineering and LCL dual degree programs into three new language areas: Spanish, Chinese, and French. Undergraduate student Caitlin Eaton-Robb describes her experience thus far in the Engineering Spanish Program in Valencia this academic year:

"The Engineering Spanish Program's yearlong study abroad in Valencia, Spain has been an amazing opportunity. I started my experience here as the only American in a two week long intensive Spanish program with students from all over Europe. Through this, my classes during fall semester, and various events put on in the local community, I have had the opportunity to meet people from all over Spain and the world. This semester I am working as a research assistant in the Instituto de Biomecánica de Valencia at the Universitat Politècnica de València where I am developing my technical skills in the area of biosignal analysis in a professional and Spanish speaking environment. Thus far, my coworkers at my internship have been very friendly and helpful, assisting me with the technical side of my assignments, giving advice on the best sights to see in Spain and the city, and even trying to teach me Valencian, the local language, a dialect of Catalán."

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Launching New Program in Literary Translation

On February 21st, the International Mother Language Day, the Thomas J. Dodd Center hosted the launch of UConn's Program in Literary Translation, titled "Translation and Human Rights in Troubled Times." Three award-winning translators spoke about how translation can protect and celebrate human rights across the boundaries of language.

Carles Torner, Executive Director at PEN International, the world's leading international literary and human rights organization, cautioned about the rapid disappearance of half of the world's 7,000 languages and the increasing cultural homogenization due to globalization. Torner helped put together the universal declaration of linguistic rights in 1996, which promotes equality among languages regardless of their status. Twenty years later, the declaration has been translated to 70 languages and has become a reference document for the linguistic laws implemented in other countries. Torner asserted that translation is a key step for the recognition of linguistic rights, and that no peace can be achieved without linguistic peace. He also argued that promoting translations into English has been detrimental to international translation and warned about the increasing persecution and repression of certain languages such as Kurdish.



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Soirée de Poésie

The French section gathered to read, sing and perform poetry, celebrating the beauty of the French language and culture.

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Creative Writing

Cuban poet Raúl Aguiar hosted a creative writing workshop where he shared his narrative techniques and his original approach to wordplay.

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Hiking Event

German club members practiced their German and improved their fitness while exploring the outdoors of Connecticut.

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LANGSA Conference

On November 11th at the LANGSA conference, LCL graduate student Ryan Evelyn delivered his paper, "Small Places, Voiceless Faces: Ambiguity and Cultural Displacement in Two Novels by Gide and Guibert" on a panel focused on Queer migrations. Ryan's paper explored gender representation, specifically the representation of masculinity in the portrayal of homosexuality as well as the concepts of cultural migration and spatial dichotomy in the two novels *Les Faux-Monnayeurs* (1925), by André Gide, and *À l'ami qui ne m'a pas sauvé la vie* (1990), by Hervé Guibert. Ryan compared and contrasted the way in which space was plotted onto representations of homosexuality in the two novels, particularly in terms of the distinction between the private and public domains. Ryan demonstrated that the novels reflect homosexuality's gradual migration into the public sphere that was taking place during the interval between the two novels' publications. Ryan's research brings to light questions of self-acceptance and marginalization, ideas that remain pertinent today in discussion of identity within the homosexual community.



Ryan Evelyn is a second-year Master's student studying French and Francophone literature in the Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. His primary research areas are the literature of the Renaissance and the Early-Modern periods, with a focus on representations of masculine homosexuality, gender, and the way these map onto the organization and representation of space.

EUROTECH Spotlight

EUROTECH's unique dual-degree program in German studies and engineering has afforded me the rewarding experience of mixing a new language with the technical field. I am currently abroad in Heidelberg, Germany, where I recently completed a semester of intensive German language and culture classes. Next semester, I look forward to an internship with the Heidelberg Biomechanics and Implant Research Clinic. My time abroad has been exciting, challenging, and a complete adventure. There are so many incredible opportunities abroad, one of which for me has been auditioning for and now performing with the University of Heidelberg Symphony Orchestra.



Living abroad has challenged my world views, namely, my new friends from all over the world have shown me new ways of thinking and appreciating culture. My experience as a student and young professional has been profoundly enhanced by this program at UConn and my time in Germany. I can recommend this program highly and enthusiastically to any engineering student with an interest in foreign languages or cultures.

Best from Germany,
Sydney Smith-Romanski

A visit from Raúl Aguiar

On October 24th Cuban poet Raul Aguiar visited UConn's Latin American Cultural Center to give a talk and workshop on the manipulation of the Spanish language within fictional writing. Aguiar's narrative writing seminars usually take place at the state-owned Onelio Jorge Cardoso Literary Center located in Habana. The center often hosts prestigious writers such as José Saramago and features annual, short-fiction competitions in which the winners receive funding for their writing projects and the possibility of publication. Over 1000 students have graduated from the center, including LCL graduate student, Milena Almira.

Aguiar engaged the audience in a conversation on the flexibility that exists within the syntactical structures of the Spanish language. He argued that Spanish offers an almost infinite liberty to exchange phrases and verbs, changing where the weight of the phrase lays, in order to shade meanings or evoke feelings in the reader. During his workshop the novelist also reflected on Cuban literary trends within the last decades.



He spoke about how the current generation of Cuban writers avoids conflicts, preferring to experiment with different literary genres and writing shorter stories due to the influence of blogs and social media platforms. Aguiar also offered valuable advice to young writers. When we suffer writer's block, he suggests that the best thing to do is to revert back to the simplest sentences to express our thoughts. Upon getting our basic ideas on paper, we can then start to re-order phrases and words to better evoke the feelings, voices and relationships that convey our intentions most effectively.

Hiking Event

In November the German club joined Eurotech for a outdoor hiking excursion through the countryside of Mansfield, Connecticut. After exploring nature, they replenished their energy with food and drink at Professor Weidauer's house. The event was a great success and gave students an opportunity to practice their German while staying physically fit!



Modern Bard Revives the Odyssey

On September 29th Classicist-musician Joe Goodkin performed his original musical composition of the Homeric masterpiece, the Odyssey. During the event Joe played a 30-minute continuous piece that deconstructs the story of the Odyssey in song. Goodkin put together a solo acoustic guitar and voice recital made of 24 original songs, whose lyrics are inspired by the epic book. His music is a fusion of mellow melodies, open-beat tunes and blues rhythms. He studied Ancient Greek at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and decided to combine his passion for the classics with his musical expertise after having written and recorded his own rock music. He has received several ASCAP Composers' awards.

Following his performance, Professor Travis briefly spoke about the relevance of the Odyssey within the context of modern digital media.



During the discussion, Goodkin explained that each of his songs are an interpretation of the Odyssey and represent the personal perspectives of its main characters. Although he admitted that a lot of narrative inevitably gets lost when the book is turned into a series of songs, he said that his lyrics attempt to capture the emotional charge of the experience of hearing the epic poem as it was originally performed. Goodkin has been touring institutions across the US and Canada since 2003, and his UConn's recital marked his 200th performance.

Shakespeare in Translation

On Wednesday September 14th the Humanities Institute and Folger Library hosted the year's first "Transcribathon." Over thirty UConn students and faculty came together in the Great Hall of the Alumni Center and collaborated to transcribe and digitize original manuscripts from the Age of Shakespeare.

Transcribers first learned how to interpret the handwriting and abbreviations used in early modern literature, and after how to encode their findings into Dromio, an enhanced crowd-sourcing tool. Dromio is an incredible tool, allowing multiple transcribers to code and enter data. The program then compiles this data, automatically finding and highlighting discrepancies between interpretations for review. The finished product is a fully digitized version of an original early modern manuscript, ready for publication.

Universities worldwide are hosting similar Transcribathon events all in an effort to digitize thousands of early modern manuscripts.

At UConn, the transcribing will continue throughout the academic year. Students have the opportunity to not only learn how to read original documents of the English Renaissance, but also have their name published on the completed editions of the manuscripts.



If you are interested in getting involved in original research and becoming a part of history, please contact Hilary Bogert-Winkler (Department of History) or George Moore (English Department) for more information.

Launching New Program in Literary Translation



Edith Grossman, the prestigious critic and translator of some of the most important Spanish and Latin American literary works of all times including *Don Quixote*, by Miguel de Cervantes, shared her struggles when she translated Spanish Renaissance poetry into English and read the opening stanza of her translation of Góngora's *The Solitudes* in Spanish and English. She argued that the perception of the world and the language we speak are intrinsically connected, and that translations enable us to discover extraordinary works in fiction and poetry that otherwise would go unnoticed. Finally, she stressed that learning other languages evokes a unique sense of surprise and curiosity.

Esther Allen, translator of *Book of Lamentations* by Rosario Castellanos, argued that poetry and fiction are translated more than any other kind of work, but in her view, translating journalism is also essential today because people often ignore discourses about what is happening elsewhere in the world. She talked about the hyper-local media hub, *Voices of New York*, which embraces linguistic diversity and provides access to a larger multilingual community. Allen critiqued the fact that translation is often hidden or disguised in international news agencies and that most mainstream media do not support translation. She reminded us that not so long ago, in the 1990s, many language departments saw translations as competition instead of a way of raising interest in other languages, and concluded that the knowledge of Latin American literature in the US has significantly contributed to make Spanish the most studied foreign language in the country.



Soirée de Poésie

Each year the French Program in LCL puts on a French poetry night. The evening, that represents a collaboration between faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates was started by Eliane Dal Molin several years ago and has only grown in scope and popularity since. A couple of years ago the French Club decided to get behind the evening. Thanks to their efforts, the event now features a catered dinner and takes place in the lovely and very public venue of the South Lobby of the Student Union. The event was attended by approximately seventy people and despite a few technical mishaps, a good time was had by all.

This year's theme was "Home, the Poetics of the Ordinary" or in its original French "Chez soi: la poétique de l'ordinaire". Twenty-one undergraduate students read poems on the theme, most of their own composition. They all read beautifully and in French. Their poems touched on themes built around everyday domestic items, tables, coffee, chocolate, cats, sunlight to reflect on topics such as independence, family bonds, time, and the comforts of home, many very powerfully. Dana Reichler wrote a poem about loss and change from an old table's point of view; Stone Li powerfully evoked family solidarity in the quiet minutes of sharing a morning's cup of coffee; Andréa Alvarez wrote about the role her grandmother played in bringing joy and continuity to her family; Seth Hewitt captured the simple transition of man preparing to leave his house in a poem called *Quarter to ten*. Abdou Thiam, Julia Saltzman, Madeleine Gastongay and Kelly Fin all produced amusing short poems. Boris Vian's *La complainte du progrès* closed out the evening featuring a dancing refrigerator.



The evening was hosted by French Program graduate students Claire Boers, Clémence Lucchini and Pauline Levy Valensi (pictured sitting behind Shabaz Khan who is launching the evening on behalf of the French Club) and directed by Jennifer Terni, a professor in the French section. The evening could not have happened without the active participation of faculty and TAs who helped their students write poems in their classes or for homework. Florence Marsal, Julia Hillbrand, and Daphnée Yiannaki played invaluable roles in this respect. Lucy Rodriguez, president of the French Club, also deserves a special mention for her leadership in bringing the evening together.

A Note from the Department Head

We are excited to present our new departmental newsletter. With it we hope to offer a window into the work that we are doing in LCL, and especially to remind our community of the importance and dynamism of our core mission, reaching out, via languages, cultures, and literatures, to achieve a deeper engagement with the world.



This is an exciting time for LCL. In the last two years we have been able to add major and minor programs in Chinese and Hebrew and Judaic Studies to our long-standing programs in Classics, French, German, Italian, and Spanish Studies. Additional language taught in LCL this year include Amharic, Hindi, Irish, and Korean, in addition to Arabic, Modern Greek, Japanese, and American Sign Language (the last two offered through the Linguistics Department). We have been able to hire our first professor in Arabic Studies, who will join us in the fall of 2017. This new hire will allow us to offer a minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies that we plan to eventually expand into a major.

This year we were also proud to offer our first courses in Literary Translation. We are in the process of developing an undergraduate minor as well as a graduate certificate in Translation Studies, a project we are developing in collaboration with the English Department and the Creative Writing program. LCL has also been involved in an interdepartmental effort to create the first graduate certificate at UConn in Digital Humanities and Media Studies. Another important development is our partnering with several schools and colleges at UConn to develop dual-degree programs that combine intensive language and intercultural study with training in professional fields following the example of the long-standing Euro-Tech program in German and Engineering. The goal of these programs, which include internships abroad, is to prepare students to develop their professional careers in real-world international and intercultural contexts to enable them to become competent and conscious global citizens.

We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and that you share in our enthusiasm and pride in the many activities and accomplishments of our students and faculty who have together made LCL such a dynamic place in which to work and study.

Gustavo Nanclares

NEW Dual Degree Programs

Each program is designed to include a yearlong stay abroad in the fourth year, during which students will spend one semester enriching their grasp of the target language and culture, and afterwards, pursue a professional internship in that same country. Students will complete their internships in Valencia, Spain and beginning next fall in Shanghai, China. The program in Toulouse, France will to be launched in the fall of 2018.



Skyline in Shanghai, China

A similar program has been developed between the Spanish program and the Allied Health Sciences program in CAHNR and the Pre-Med program in CLAS. Students participating in this program complete coursework toward their Pre-Med track or AHS, as well as in Spanish, and participate in an extended semester program abroad that includes a full-time internship at the Hospital de la Inmaculada in Granada, Spain.

LCL is also working closely with the School of Business to explore options for creating similar dual-degree programs. This spring we have sent the first students to the new program in Madrid where they are taking Spanish and Business classes at the CEU-San Pablo while completing full-time internships in companies around Madrid. This unique range of programs offers students the chance to pursue an in-depth study of foreign languages and cultures even as they acquire experience in their chosen professions in an exciting intercultural context.



Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias in Valencia, Spain

Celebrating this year's LCL Fellow at the Humanities Center

Daniel Hershenzon, this year's Fellow at the Humanities Institute, gave an illuminating talk on March 1st anticipating the publication of his upcoming book through Penn Press in Spring 2018, *Early Modern Spain and the Mediterranean: Captivity, Commerce, and Communication*. Hershenzon specializes in Early Modern Spanish and Mediterranean history. His academic work focuses on how the trade of objects



between Christians, Muslims and Jews in the seventeenth-century Mediterranean encourages a reassessment our understanding of economic value, commodification, and established narratives about the emergence of capitalism.

Meet Christopher Bonner

Christopher Bonner joined the faculty of LCL as a Visiting Assistant Professor to teach courses in French and Comparative Literature. He specializes in postcolonial studies and French Caribbean literature. He completed his undergraduate degree at Columbia University in 2005 after which he became a New York City Teaching Fellow, teaching middle-school



in the South Bronx. He completed his dissertation, *The Alignment of Writing: Geopolitics and Literary Form in Cold War French Caribbean Literature*, at NYU in 2015.

Meet Nan Meng

Nan Meng earned her Ph.D. in Chinese Pedagogy from Ohio State University. Prior to joining UConn, she taught at Pennsylvania State University, Wesleyan University, Yale University and Ohio State University. She has participated in multimedia pedagogical material designing and K-12 curriculum design projects, and served as a teacher trainer in teacher education programs. Her research interests include Chinese pedagogy, language socialization, teacher education, computer-assistant language learning and development of



UConn's Program in Literary Translation

UConn has an untapped wealth of international literary resources. Our student body, over thirty-thousand strong, is spectacularly diverse. We have students studying and speaking dozens of languages ranging from Amharic to Azerbaijani to all the major languages of Europe, Asia and Africa. LCL's new program in Literary Translation is setting out to make the most of these resources.



Peter Constantine, the prestigious director of the program, joined the faculty in the fall of 2016. His recent translations, published by Random House (Modern Library), include *The Essential Writings of Rousseau*, *The Essential Writings of Machiavelli*, and works by Tolstoy, Gogol, and Voltaire. He has been Guggenheim Fellow and was awarded the PEN Translation Prize for Six Early Stories by Thomas Mann, and the National Translation Award for *The Undiscovered Chekhov*. His translation of the complete works of Isaac Babel received the Koret Jewish Literature Award and a National Jewish Book Award citation.

Since coming to UConn, Professor Constantine has been teaching classes in literary translation at the undergraduate and graduate levels. "In these first classes students have already translated literature from German, French, Arabic, Danish, Spanish, Catalan, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Bosnian, Croatian, Modern Greek, and Arberisht. This in just four months."

Constantine's classes focus on both the craft of translation and translation theory, the fall classes centering equally on theory and practice, the spring classes more on practice. "What is particularly encouraging is that many of my students' translations are being published," Constantine says. "Translations of prose and poetry have been accepted in literary magazines, such as *World Literature Today*, *Arion*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, and the European poetry magazines *Lyrikline* and *The Stockholm Review*."

Constantine is also launched a literary magazine *New Poetry in Translation*, and later this year the annual anthology *All Translation*. "New Poetry in Translation is an international literary magazine publishing the best in translated world poetry," Constantine says. "We will be publishing works by some of America's foremost translators, such as Pierre Joris, Burton Pike, Rika Lesser, and Katherine Silver, as well as masterful translations by younger translators, including UConn students. The *All Translation* anthology will be an annual publication that brings together translations from all languages and eras, focusing particularly on the work of UConn students and other emerging translators."



Want to stay posted on LCL news throughout the year?

Check out our new website:
<http://languages.uconn.edu/>

Follow our Facebook page:
 UConn-Department of Literatures,
 Cultures, and Languages



Numbers at a glance

Did you know that in LCL there are...

268 majors

353 courses taught

20 MAs who are also TAs

30 Ph.D. students who are also TAs

11 MA/Ph.D. students who are active but not teaching

78 students abroad in France, Spain, Italy, Martinique and Germany

41 full-time faculty members (including **31** tenured or tenure-track professors)

LCL Alumni Contact Form

We want to hear from you! Please e-mail the following information to Patricia Parlette at patricia.parlette@uconn.edu to receive departmental updates and news.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Graduation year from UConn: _____

Past program in LCL: _____

Current profession (optional): _____

Giving to LCL

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