Welcome! This newsletter is designed to let our alumni and friends of the Department know about some of the great things that are happening in Languages & Literatures. We hope to make this a regular undertaking, so feel free to let us know if there's something you'd like to see covered in a future issue.

Jim O'Loughlin, Department Head  
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Class Happenings

Last semester, students in SPAN 3027 Latinos in the U.S. worked on a group podcast project to identify a specific topic of interest related to Latinx communities in the U.S. They conducted research and recorded 15 min podcasts in Spanish about that topic (see left). The podcasts are available through the L&L YouTube channel (see page four).

Students in TESOL 4340 English Grammar: Form and Function and TESOL 4520 Cultural Aspects of Language and Language Teaching have participated in a series of collaborative lessons in conjunction with the University of Yamanashi. UNI students had live, online discussions with Japanese students who were learning English in Tokyo.

The Fall 2021 SPAN 2002 Oral and Written Spanish class took part in a five-week conversation exchange with English students at the Universidad Marista in Mérida, México. Students met biweekly to talk with conversation partners about assigned topics via Zoom for a half hour in English and a half hour in Spanish, making great gains in language proficiency, confidence, and cultural competency!

Striving Students

TESOL M.A. student Jacob Rigal presented a paper, “Native Speakers, Emergent Bilinguals and the Pragmatics of ‘Like’” at the MidTESOL Conference in October.

TESOL major/French minor Ethan Vance (see right) has placed 20th nationally in the American Journal of French Studies Concours d'écriture 2021 (Essay Competition). His essay entitled, “Pourquoi as-tu commencé à apprendre le français?” was selected from more than 1300 student entries.

Zach Batt (English M.A.) combined assignments in English 4/5765 (Workplace Communication) and in English 4/5785 (Projects, Grants & Careers) to, respectively, write a business plan and design a digital presence for his new business, Em and En Editing.
Future teachers studying Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at University of Northern Iowa (UNI) have a new opportunity for their field experience: working with emergent bilingual students in the Storm Lake Community School District (SLCSD).

Emergent bilinguals refers to students who are learning a new language while continuing to develop their home language. Over 10 percent of the student population in U.S. schools—about five million students—are learning English as a second language. According to the SLCSD, about 64 percent of its students are considered English language learners (ELL). There are 24 different languages spoken in the district, with Spanish speakers being the largest ELL group.

Through a new agreement with the district, Aliza Fones, Assistant Professor, Languages and Literatures, observed and mentored the 13 UNI students on site the week of October 18-22 at Storm Lake elementary, middle and high schools.

“It is crucial that we prepare teachers to work with emergent bilingual students and students from diverse linguistic backgrounds. My goal is that through this kind of experience in the schools and community, these future teachers will learn more about how to do that in a way that is supportive of students’ home languages and cultures,” Fones said.

Note: this article has been excerpted from a longer piece originally published in Inside UNI.

**Sigma Tau Delta**

This fall, the English Honors Society, Sigma Tau Delta, inducted eight new members: Taylor Brown, Mara Froelich, Hannah Gebers, Hannah McConkey, Max Pike, Leah Roughton, Jamie Steinman and Melody Trucano.

This spring, the first high school chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, will be launched at Tripoli High School by UNI English-Teaching alumnas Samantha Speaker and Tracey Toenjes. L&L’s Jesse Swan will deliver the keynote address at the charter installation and induction ceremony.

**NI en Español**

A number of Spanish majors and minors (with the help of faculty advisor, L&L’s Juan Carlos Castillo) have launched a new Spanish-language initiative at the student newspaper, the Northern Iowan. NI en Español runs news articles in Spanish alongside the NI’s traditional offerings in English.

**NAR Practicum**

The North American Review practicum, ENGL 4790, gives students firsthand experience in publishing a literary magazine. Last semester’s class produced an electronic newsletter sent out to 10,000 NAR fans and created posts for the NAR’s online hub, Open Space, that received almost 30,000 unique views. More at northamericanreview.org.

**El Festival del Día de los Muertos llega a UNI**

El Festival del Día de los Muertos llega a UNI

MARIO M. MENDOZA, Spanish Editor

October 28, 2021

El 1 de Nov, UNIHisto y la Sociedad Teatral Multicultural (STM) organizarán un festival del Día de los Muertos en el Teatro de Bertha Martín de 6:30 pm al 9 pm.
Return of Study Abroad
Spring & Summer 2022

After a pause in study abroad opportunities caused by the pandemic, this semester eleven L&L students are studying abroad in countries including Spain, South Korea and Costa Rica. Faculty-led summer studying abroad programs have also returned. This summer, planned trips include visits to locations in France (with L&Ls Elizabeth Zwanziger) and United Kingdom/Ireland (with L&Ls Hilal Ergül).

Bartlett Outdoor Classroom

In good weather, look for the pop-up outdoor classroom under the oak trees in Bartlett Courtyard. The set up includes a wifi connection and portable audio visual system. The space is used for classes and meetings when the squirrels are willing to share their domain with us.

Upcoming Programming (accessible from off-campus)

Interested in L&L programming? Most L&L events are now Zoomcast live and can be viewed from your computer. Though you are always welcome to come to campus, consider Zooming in to some of these upcoming Spring 2022 events.

2022 French Film Festival

For a second year, French language films were streamed at home followed by in-person/Zoom discussions. Find out more about the films at: https://chas.uni.edu/languagelit/minors/interdisciplinary-french-studies-minor/2022-french-film-festival.

- Week of Jan 23 Petite fille / Little Girl
- Week of Jan 30 Un film dramatique / A Dramatic Film
- Week of Feb 6 Sélection de court-métrages d’Alain Resnais / Early Shorts by Alain Resnais
- Week of Feb 13 La nuit des rois / Night of the Kings
- Week of Feb 20 La permission / The Story of a Three Day Pass
- Week of Feb 27 Le joli mai / The Lovely Month of May

Final Thursday Reading Series

Now in its 21st season, the Final Thursday Reading Series features a creative writing open mic followed by featured authors. Stream at featured author at 7:30. For more information on the authors and to register for a Zoom link go to: https://www.finalthursdaypress.com.

- January 27, 2022—Kamyar Enshayan
- February 24, 2022—Larry Baker
- March 31, 2022—Kathy Fish
- April 28, 2022—Jesse Swan

New Faculty Books


After Jackie: Fifteen Pioneers Who Helped Change the Face of Baseball by Jeffrey Copeland accounts for the experiences of the players who integrated individual baseball teams in the aftermath of Jackie Robinson.
New L&L Website
chas.uni.edu/langlit

As part of the UNI-wide rebranding, the Department of Languages & Literatures now has a new website. While you'll recognize many familiar programs and people, this redesign will assist current and prospective students in charting out their academic pathways with additional details on Certificates and Endorsements and information on potential careers.

This responsive site is optimized for viewing on a range of desktop and digital devices, and it allows for a more extensive use of images and video. Surf on over and give it a look!

Support Languages & Literatures

The work of the Department of Languages & Literatures wouldn't be possible without the support of donors whose generosity provides student scholarships and funding for departmental programming. If you would like to assist the next generation of students, you can go to https://foundation.uni.edu/ways-give. When asked to designate your gift, select “Other Designation” and enter “223087 L&L Fund for Excellence.” If you would like to donate via check, please make payable to UNI Foundation, write “223087 L&L Fund for Excellence” on memo line and mail to: UNI Foundation Financial Services, 121 Commons, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0239.

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Stay up to date with all that's happening in Languages & Literatures via the social media of your choice. One of these days, we'll get a TikTok, but we have to find someone in the department willing to dance on camera first.