

SUMMER, 2011



THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES

CHANGES ARE IN THE WIND

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

What's in a name...? As of July 1st, our school and our department will have a new name. Culture and Society will be HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES and Modern Languages will be WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES (WLC). Our new name best reflects the diversity represented by the different languages, cultures, and literatures taught in the department: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. And speaking of names, the Conversation Hour will now be called Oral Proficiency Class (OPC).

2010-2011 was a year of transitions with two new Co-Chairs, Deborah Compte and Adriana Rosman-Askot. They will be sharing the chairing responsibilities through 2013.

This past year was a successful year for the intensive language classes. We now offer two years of intensive instruction in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Russian. The students have class 4 days a week plus a conversation hour session. The feedback from both students and professors has been very positive! We hope interest will continue to grow!

Our "traditional" language sections also continue to thrive. Spanish students continue to be active in the Spanish Club and many have participated in study abroad opportunities in Spain and Latin America. Dr. Teresa San Pedro and Dr. Regina Morin will be leading the TCNJ in Madrid program this summer with 19 students, a very healthy number given the current financial situation.

We also have a growing number of self designed majors in languages other than Spanish, and a number of them graduated this past May with majors in Italian and Japanese. We expect that interest in self designed majors will also increase this coming year.

This past year, our faculty kept very busy with research projects, presenting papers at conferences, and participating in many department and college wide committees (see Faculty News section of Newsletter for detailed information about faculty activities).

WLC faculty completed a Strategic Plan for the department which includes various initiatives in curriculum, community and resources. The Strategic Plan is the result of a yearlong collaborative effort among faculty, staff, current students and alumni. We have already begun to implement some of the initiatives and will be working to accomplish many others in the coming year.

The department also welcomed many speakers, co-sponsored a French Film Festival and an International Film Festival, organized a Chinese New Year celebration, planned cultural trips to New York and Philadelphia, and more...

It was a productive year, a year of planning, change, much hard work and notable outcomes!

Please look on page two and eleven of this newsletter for a list of our students' achievements. A heartfelt congratulations to all on a job well done!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the Fall.

Adriana

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OUR STUDENTS MAKE US PROUD!

Many of our students were inducted into various honor societies (Kappa Delta Pi, Sigma Delta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, Japanese National Honor Society)

Julia Flagg received a Certificate of academic excellence in Spanish (major). She was also chosen as the student representative from Humanities and Social Sciences to carry the school banner during commencement.

Aliya Merali received a Certificate of academic excellence in Arabic (minor).

Valery Lavigne received a Certificate of academic excellence in Chinese (minor). She was also awarded a Critical Languages Scholarship from the US State Department to study in Shanghai this summer.

Carolin Guentert received a Certificate of academic excellence in French (minor).

Cristina D'Amato and **Sarah Burdick** received a Certificate of Academic Excellence in Italian (major).

Bryan Furman won the nationally competitive Boren scholarship for study abroad. He will spend the 2011-2012 year in Moscow at the International University.

Esther Tetrushvily, double major in English and International Studies with minors in Central Eurasian Studies and Spanish, received a Fulbright award. She will be spending next year in Azerbaijan.

Raymond McCue received one of 10 scholarships from Sigma Delta Pi, the National Spanish Honor Society, to study in Cuernavaca, Mexico, during the Summer of 2011.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

SAVE THE DATE... FALL 2011 EVENTS

FALL 2011 – INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Library Auditorium – 6:00 pm



September 20 - TWILIGHT SAMURAI, Yoji Yamada dir. (Japan, 2002)
Japanese with English subtitles: Discussion led by: Dr. Holly Didi-Ogren

October 4 - L'UOMO CHE VERRA (THE MAN THAT WILL COME), Giorgio Diritti, dir. (Italy, 2009)
Italian with English subtitles: Discussion led by: Dr. Federica Anichini

October 25 - ANNA FROM 6 TO 18, Nikita Mikhalkov dir. (Russia, 1994)
Russian with English subtitles: Discussion led by: Dean Ben Rifkin & Dr. Shaun Wiley

November 15 - LEMON TREE, Eran Riklis, dir. (Israel, Germany, France, 2004)
Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles: Discussion led by: Dr. David Stillman
& Dr. Jo-Ann Gross

ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH - TBA

October 29th: Maria Fama, renowned Italian-American poet, will present her poetry and latest book. Vincenzo Pascale and Maurizio Molinari (journalist of La Stampa of Turin) will present and discuss their volume entitled "The Italians in New York."

WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES STRATEGIC PLAN

HOW WE DEVELOPED OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Following the Department of Modern Languages Program Review in 2009-10, we were charged by Dean Rifkin in early Fall 2010 to draft a strategic plan for the department outlining our goals and objectives as well as the strategic initiatives we will undertake to achieve these goals. This charge was discussed at the September 2010 department faculty meeting, and it was agreed that the department's Executive Committee would meet and create an initial draft as a point of departure for discussion and consultation with faculty, students, staff and alumni.

The Executive Committee met on a number of occasions and also worked independently in drafting sections of the proposed strategic plan. The drafts and revisions were shared through a Wiki allowing all members of the Executive Committee ready access to suggestions and revisions. The Executive Committee finalized a draft in late October 2010. Updates on the Executive Committee's progress were shared with the Modern Languages faculty in the department meetings.

At the beginning of November 2010, the Executive Committee circulated a draft of the strategic plan to all department faculty members for discussion at the November 10 meeting. Collectively, the faculty reviewed each goal and initiative, and consensus was reached on a revised draft. The faculty were asked to submit names of students and alumni from the various language sections so the strategic plan could be circulated among them for further comment and suggestions.

The chair circulated the draft among 25 students and alumni and requested feedback. 50% of those surveyed responded, many with very detailed comments. The chair compiled the comments, which were discussed at the department's December 2010 faculty meeting. Final revisions to the strategic plan were made to incorporate the student and alumni suggestions. Following these revisions, the faculty unanimously approved the document and agreed to send it to Dean Rifkin. The strategic plan was officially approved on April 7, 2011.

We are grateful for the collective efforts that contributed to our comprehensive strategic plan, and look forward to using it to guide our future initiatives. We genuinely appreciate the interest and dedication of all those who participated in this project.

To view our Strategic Plan, please visit our website.

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Spanish & Sociology Major: Julia Flagg

On April 13, 2011, I presented the research from my senior thesis in Sociology at the Council on Undergraduate's (CUR) 'Posters on the Hill' event. My research, titled "Recycling as a Predictor of a Cultural Greening?," was made possible by a survey I distributed to nearly 600 TCNJ faculty and students. I was selected as one of 70 nation-wide undergraduate students from more than 700 applicants to present my research at this venue. I met with various New Jersey congressmen and Senator Lautenberg, as well as with Senator Menendez's aide and advocated for continued funding for undergraduate research. The day culminated in a 2-hour poster session, during which I shared my research with other students, the aides of Congressmen and women, and members of CUR.



STUDENT PRESENTATIONS - CONTINUED

Spanish Major: Caitlin Duffy

Spanish Professionals in America Conference Overview / June, 2011

Spanish Professionals in America, or “Asociación de Licenciados y Doctores Españoles en Estados Unidos” (ALDEEU), is an interdisciplinary, non-profit association. It is composed of Spanish professionals and academic researchers residing in the United States who work in a wide variety of fields, such as business, medicine, communications, and literary and cultural studies. Together with other professionals described as “friends of Spain,” these “aldeeuenses” come together at an annual international congress and assembly. This academic forum furthers ALDEEU’s mission to broaden communication channels among Spanish professionals and across disciplines, as well as provide a bridge between professionals living in Spain and the Americas. At the conference, attendees exchange information on crucial and relevant topics through presentations, discussions, and debates.



I was fortunate enough to attend ALDEEU’s “XXXI Asamblea y Congreso Internacional” held in Ithaca, New York from June 1st to 4th. This year’s theme was immigration, and I presented a paper titled “Immigration Laws and Spanish Americans.” My investigation was inspired by the material I learned in the fall of 2010 in Dr. Teresa San Pedro’s 300-level course, “Civilization of Spanish America.” My research began with United States federal immigration law and policy and the persistent yet masked presence of discriminatory quotas and practices. I narrowed my focus on Arizona’s Senate Bill 1070 as further evidence of discrimination against Hispanic immigrants in the present day United States. In coming to understand the longstanding tradition of discrimination against Spanish Americans, I researched the history of discrimination against foreign born ethnic groups and immigrants, as well as the conscious role the United States has played in avoiding accountability and the implementation of international human rights. As many advocates have declared before me, immigrant rights are human rights, and they deserve to be upheld before any law. For decades United States hegemony and federal policies have set the stage for discrimination, and in understanding this history we can better prepare and fight for immigration reform.

In addressing this topic that has motivated me personally, academically, and professionally, it was interesting to realize how easily I applied knowledge from both my majors. I recalled related scholarly articles I had read not only in my Spanish classes, but also in my education courses. The best part was that I could sign onto SOCS and find them within a matter of minutes. After arranging the final product, I thoroughly enjoyed the oral presentation of my paper and the chance to spend time among experienced professionals. I would strongly recommend that students attend professional conferences applicable to their field of study when given the chance. Opportunities for networking and connections, as well as access to points of view not available in one’s own discipline will prove valuable in cultivating a professional career. I am thankful to Dr. San Pedro for her guidance and instruction, and I would also like to thank Professors Ann Warner-Ault and Isabel Kentengian for sharing their knowledge and expertise with me on this trip. The College of New Jersey and the Modern Languages Department were well represented by their faculty.

My One-Year Study in Beijing

Maryan Escarfullett 伊玛妍

Self-designed Chinese Language &
Culture Studies Major

When I set my first footstep in the Beijing Capital Airport I wholeheartedly expected the epic Olympic anthem Beijing Welcomes You, 北京欢迎你, to start playing. I also wholeheartedly expected to be taken away by guards clothed in olive Communist party uniforms and violently thrown into a dark, dismal jail for my affiliations with TCNJ's College Democrats. Suffice to say neither event took place. These were only two of the many pre-conceptions that I held about Communist China and what living in a foreign country would be like.



My decision to study abroad for over a year was precluded by my self-designed Chinese Language and Culture Studies Major. By throwing myself into an all-immersive environment with a strict language pledge I would have the opportunity not only to vastly improve my written Chinese, gain an in-depth understanding of Chinese culture through a Chinese perspective, but I would also have the opportunity to prepare for the official Chinese Language Fluency exam, the HSK.

Deciding to study abroad for the entirety of a year was not a decision that I made easily. The thought of leaving home for a country that was six thousand miles away was discomforting, especially with the knowledge that most of my friends, rising seniors, would no longer be at TCNJ when I came back. How would I adequately be able to deal with living in a country not only so far, but also so alien? A culture so different it had been defined in terms of its Kong Pao Chicken and Bruce Lee movies. Furthermore, how could I possibly accept living in a country with a government that had so violently and unjustly repressed its people during the 1989 Tiananmen Protests? These major apprehensions gave way to the minor misgivings that I had, such as the doubt that I had about being able to master a language with no alphabetic system or even order meals on a daily basis.

To be honest, a lot of these fears were either misguided or unnecessary. They were the result of a lack of understanding and direct interaction with China's culture. A culture, a society, a language, and a political system would be practically impossible to understand without experiencing first-hand the complexities of daily life. It was the nuances in people's opinions, in the social order, economic and political diversity that exists within the country that pushed me to disregard all previous notions and open my mind. It was hard.

But growing always is. And grow I did, under the pressure of six hours of immersive Chinese classes a day, five days a week. Not to mention the absurd amounts of homework I was getting on a daily basis. However, as time passed my knowledge of Chinese increased, and consequently so did my understanding of the culture. A culture so steeped in tradition it still uses over five-thousand years old idioms to describe the challenges of modern society in a developing nation. The ability to communicate opened doors for me. Not only was I learning how to communicate but also what trans-cultural communication is. Through my explorations of Chinese methods of communication I learned about my own American methods of communication. In learning how to speak, I learned how people thought, how they felt.

By traveling through the geographically unique territories I was exposed not only to the linguistic diversity of the nation, but also the culture and ethnic diversity that exists within its borders. Furthermore, I was able to experience on a first-hand basis the differences between standards of living, political and economic development. Chinese even has two different words for a place that is still developing 发展 (Fāzhǎn) versus developed 发达 (Fādá). Through traveling I have learned to empathize not only with the growing, middle-class and urban elite, such as the college students residing in large cities like Xiamen, Beijing and Dalian, but I was also able to empathize with the portion of the population that depend on agriculture to subsist such as the farmers in Jiangxi province, Mao Zedong's revolutionary guerrilla base or Inner Mongolia.

Those are the people that often do not have the opportunity or economic means to obtain a proper education, and are marked by the differences in economic position, age and gender. The very same people that display the values of the nation through their generosity despite their substandard living conditions. For example, hiking with a few classmates through southern China during our study field trip of learning about the Long March I ran into a farmer who invited all twelve of us into his home and cooked lunch for us with the vegetables from his own garden, and eggs from his own hen despite the fact that his home didn't even have chairs or electronic devices. It was the freshest and best meal I'd ever had. At the same time, I sympathize with the mass of college students graduating this year and competing for the few jobs that exist after studying majors that their parents choose for them while biding time before they have to get married.

I came to terms with my values and personal opinions versus opinions I believed I had as a result of my American upbringing. I realized that cultural differences really amount to differences in basic definitions of what is right and wrong, and accepted the fact that sometimes those definitions are malleable. Through my backpacking and travels through all parts of China, Southern, Central and Northern I learned to construct a new identity, not just as an American but as a global citizen. (continued on next page)

TCNJ STUDENTS ABROAD - CONTINUED

Maryan Escarfullett Story Continued:

By peeling away and rejecting the social values that I did not agree with and created a new identity centered on values that were neither Chinese nor American, but rather my own values. With these values and confidence in mind I proceeded to Beijing to conquer finals and the official HSK Chinese proficiency exam.

My one year in China is almost over. After winning a Business and International Education (BIE) Grant from TCNJ I was able to intern at a non-profit in Beijing, and further my studies abroad another semester. I also successfully passed the HSK, the Chinese proficiency test and am certified fluent in Chinese by the People's Republic of China. It is with mixed feelings that I pack my things and prepare to return home, to return to the warmth of friends' and family's embrace. I will never forget how much my experiences in this country have changed me.

I will always carry the knowledge that through different means the people of these two countries so far apart and so opposite work hard to achieve the same goals: happiness and security. As a result I hope to continue to grow and change as a person and as a global citizen. I leave with the acceptance that coming to China was the best decision I have ever made. During my time in Beijing I have learned this illuminating phrase 车到山前必有路，船到桥头自然直 (chē dào shān qián bì yǒu lù chuán dào qiáo tóu zì rán zhí) which translates into "when the wagon arrives at the front of the mountain there must be a road, when the boat arrives as the head of a bridge it will naturally move forward." Or as TCNJ Lions would say where there's a will, there's a way.

French Student: Wiktorja Leja Study Abroad - Senegal Africa

Before our plane landed in Senegal, my peers and I were discussing the enigma named Dakar that awaited us. Some were more nervous than others, afraid that their lack of knowledge of Wolof, the main language of Senegal, and Senegalese culture, would hinder their study abroad experience. Fortunately, I was part of the group that felt confident and eager to begin this great adventure. Although my preparation for my journey to Senegal encompassed a year and a half of diligent work and research, my independent study in Wolof and Senegalese Culture best prepared me for studying abroad.

Throughout the course of the semester, I studied the Wolof words that would be the most crucial to my survival in a land where few people spoke English. I was able to learn the beauty of the West African language, and about its relationship to Senegal's environment. Furthermore, I was allowed to absorb myself in Senegalese culture and society. I discussed and researched the various issues facing Senegal, including corruption and poverty. In particular, I focused on the issue of child beggars in Senegal, and the various ways they have been exploited by those who were supposedly responsible for them. Perhaps the most significant part of my independent study was the multiple conversations that Dr. Sow and I would engage in throughout our meetings. Through these meetings, I became acquainted with the realities that come with studying abroad, and was also filled with excitement to finally arrive in Senegal, after hearing Dr. Sow rave about his country for over four months.



Wiktorja and friend Sama Yaay

TCNJ STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Senior: Valery Lavigne

Self-designed major in Cultural Anthropology with minors in Mandarin Chinese and Sociology, was invited by the First Lady Michelle Obama to attend the panel on "Celebrating Educational Exchanges with China in Supporting the President's '100,000 Strong' initiative," at Howard University, in Washington, D.C. on the academic, cultural and career benefits of studying in China on January 19, 2011. She was honored as one of the four key speakers at the panel aired nationally/globally. This event was part of a series of activities organized by the Obama administration around the state visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

She was also awarded the Critical Language Scholarship for Chinese to study abroad in Shanghai this summer. The CLS program is administrated by the U.S Department of State and is a very competitive scholarship, awards go to both undergraduate and graduate U.S citizens. The Chinese summer institute is 8 weeks, from June to August, and is very intensive language instruction, with about a year's worth of college Chinese covered in those 8 weeks.

TCNJ CHINESE PROGRAM - NEWS

This year, with the implementation of the Intensive Chinese CHI 151 and 152, the Chinese Program hired two part-time instructors Celia Liu and Jia Mi who taught CHI 151 and CHI 152. Celia has done excellent work in coordinating the Celebration of the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit and the Singing Chinese songs Karaoke party. With the support of the BIE grant “Business Chinese For Beginners 初级商务汉语” was offered for the first time. CHI 150: Chinese For Heritage Speakers was developed and approved by the department curriculum committee and will be reviewed for approval by the HSS Curriculum Committee in the fall semester. Three students with a Chinese minor were graduated. Six students went to study in Beijing and Shanghai respectively.



Dean Ben Rifkin (School of Humanities & Social Sciences) and Jon Stauff (Director, Center for Global Engagement) traveled to China from February 26 to March 13, 2011 to visit study abroad programs, meet with potential internship and customized study abroad program providers, publicize the Summer 2012 ESLAS institute, and explore potential university partners for exchange relationships and program development. They visited universities in Beijing, Xi'an, Nanjing, Shanghai and Hangzhou. In April, TCNJ – CAPA partnership for a study abroad program in Capital Normal University was approved by the International Education Program Council.

TCNJ's Chinese 201 and 152 classes took part in online Synchronous Lessons with Graduate School students from Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages in Taiwan. Students participated in two sessions, one in the morning of April 14th, and one at the night of April 25th due to the twelve hour time difference between Taiwan and the U.S. Students at TCNJ participated with enthusiasm to meet teachers online whom they had never seen before. “Through technology, people from far away can become friends and be close like your neighbor even without traveling. (天涯若比邻)” said Dr. Zhi Xian Chen, the Director of Graduate Institute of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language, in his welcoming remarks over webcam to the students of TCNJ.

Dean Benjamin Rifkin spoke of how exciting this activity was, especially in its ability to enhance students' global communication. Tara Pretty, junior, said, “This is a very cool way of learning. And maybe one day, I will meet my potential employer this way and conduct an online interview.”

Professor Liu at TCNJ thanks Professor Tsui Yun Lin at Wenzao Ursuline College who accepted this invitation and led a group of Graduate students studying Teaching Chinese as a Second Language to participate in this International activity.

TCNJ RUSSIAN PROGRAM - NEWS

The TCNJ Russian program had an exciting year in 2010-2011. We inaugurated our new intensive first-year Russian program with 18 students, both in first- *and* in second-semester (RUS 151 and 152, respectively). Our students did a great job, using their Russian to perform, sing, talk and write throughout the year, working with Dean Rifkin and Cori Anderson in the fall semester, and with Cori Anderson in the spring semester. Two of our first-year students, Criminology major Stephanie Cregg and Music major Ian Highcock, won honorable mention in the National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest. Advanced students of Russian, Bryan Furman, a double major in International Studies and Psychology, and Esther Tetrushvili, a double major in International Studies and English, working in independent study with Dean Rifkin, won awards as well. Bryan won honorable mention in the same essay contest (at a higher level of competition) and, more importantly, a Boren Scholarship for study abroad for 2011-2012. Bryan will spend the year in Moscow at International University through the program sponsored by the American Council of Teachers of Russian. While in Moscow, in addition to studying Russian, Bryan will research Russians' attitudes toward the Muslim minorities living in the Russian Federation. Esther, who graduated in May 2011, won a Fulbright scholarship to Baku, where she will be teaching English and studying migration patterns in 2011-2012.



The Russian program sponsored some cultural events in 2010-2011, including film showings. We're also very proud that this past year saw the creation of a new student club on campus, The Russian Club, which sponsored a lot of events with over 30 members in its first year. You can find the TCNJ Russian Club on Facebook and in meetings and events next year. Speaking of which, we're very excited about campus plans for 2011-2012 to celebrate Russian culture, including, in the fall semester alone, a concert by the Moscow String Quartet, a film showing, and a talk by Dean Rifkin about what it was like to live in the Soviet Union, as we gear up to observe the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Soviet Union.

Dean Rifkin co-edited a special issue of the *Slavic & East European Journal* that came out this past year; the issue was dedicated to questions of learning and teaching Slavic languages and cultures. He also gave invited lectures at UCLA, the University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Victoria, as well as workshops for Princeton University and the Anchorage, Alaska Public School District. This year Dean Rifkin also gave a conference paper at the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, on the place of foreign language learning in the liberal arts curriculum. Cori Anderson also had a great year: she gave a paper at the same conference, on case alternations and event structure, with a focus on Lithuanian, and another paper at the 20th meeting of the Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics conference at MIT. In the summer of 2010 Cori was resident director for the US State Department's Critical Language Scholarship program in Vladimir, Russia and she is going back to Vladimir for the summer program this year.

In the 2011-2012 academic year the Russian program will unroll its second-year intensive Russian classes (RUS 251 and 252). We are looking forward to welcoming a new colleague who will teach Russian with us, Irina Yampolskaya. Irina is from Nizhny Novgorod, one of Russia's largest cities, and is currently completing her dissertation in Second Language Acquisition. We are hoping that the College will approve a proposal to establish a new minor in Russian Studies in the coming year, as well, as we prepare our first "intensive-program graduates" for study abroad in Russian in the 2012-2013 academic year and, ultimately, induction into the national Slavic honor society, Dobro Slovo. In the coming year we look forward to working with our continuing students to enhance their Russian language skills and to welcoming new students in our first-year program and at all our cultural events. Да здравствует русский язык! Да здравствует русская культура!

WLC DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Chinese & Japanese Language Program TCNJ Karaoke Party—April 11, 2011

Voices rang at TCNJ on the night of April 11, as the Chinese and Japanese language programs' students and faculty got together to enjoy some karaoke. Singing in either Mandarin Chinese or Japanese with enthusiasm, those who participated enjoyed a few moments of fame, encouraged by the bubble tea and dumplings provided by professors from both departments and fellow students' generous loud applause.



Professor Holly Didi-Ogren and Professor Mika Kajiwara singing along with the students



GUEST SPEAKERS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES



Director Miao Wang was invited to TCNJ to screen her new film *Beijing Taxi* (China, 2010) on Tue., Sept 7th. She also held a post-screening Q & A session.



Prominent contemporary Chinese poet Yu Jian held a poetry reading on Monday, Sept. 13th at TCNJ.

WLC DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Guest Speakers & Other Activities Continued:



Duo Duo, the most eminent/legendary Chinese poet and the winner of 2010 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, was invited to hold a poetry reading for the fully packed audience on Thursday, October 28th at TCNJ.



Ou Ning, acclaimed docufilm maker, leading curator of Chinese art and creative culture, Urban environmental activist, founder of U-thèque, an independent film and video organization and director of Shao Foundation in Beijing, was invited to give a lecture "'Demolishing China: Politics of Eco-Space in Chinese Docufilms and Art'" and screened his docufilm "MeiShi Sreet" on Friday, Feb. 4th at TCNJ.



Independent Filmmaker Odette Scott came to screen her debut film "Falling From the Sky: An American Girl in Beijing" on Thursday, Sept. 23rd at TCNJ



Mingmei Yip (Ph.D. in musicology at the University of Paris at Sorbonne), the best-selling author of *Peach Blossom Pavilion* (2010), *Petals from the Sky* (2008), *Chinese Children's Favorite Stories* (2005) as well as a master performer of Chinese Guqin, an acclaimed Chinese calligrapher and Zen artist, came to TCNJ for a reading of her new novel *Song of the Silk Road* on Thursday, April 14th.

SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY & SPANISH CLUB 2010-2011 ACTIVITIES

During 2010-2011 year, the chapter Upsilon Psi, at TCNJ had the induction ceremony for the new members on December 1, 2010 in the Bliss Lounge.

All through the 2010-2011 year Sigma Delta Pi, Upsilon Psi chapter at TCNJ and the Spanish Club organized different activities at the College and with different communities in New Jersey. At TCNJ, Upsilon Psi and the Spanish Club offered “Horas de Tertulia” every Wednesday to members of the College community who wanted to practice Spanish. During the Fall, Upsilon Psi presented the movie: “*El secreto de sus ojos*” and invited Dr. Adriana Rosman – Askot to give a presentation and lead a discussion about the movie.

In October the chapter helped to organize *La Feria de la salud* in Princeton, with 28 members of the TCNJ community participating serving as translators and facilitating during the event. At the end of the semester, along with the Spanish Club, Upsilon Psi organized Project Parramos at TCNJ. We were able to donate textbooks to an elementary school in Parramos, Guatemala.

For the second semester, Upsilon Psi organized two presentations about Immigration by Dr. Ann Warner -Ault and showed the movies: *Al otro lado* and *Voces inocentes*.

Congratulations!
Spanish Majors inducted into the following Honor Societies:

PHI KAPPA PHI

Samantha Coughlin

Raymond McCue

Lindsay Pettit

PHI BETA KAPPA

Samantha Coughlin

Julia Flagg

Katherine Heitmann



Spanish Honor Society Induction Ceremony on December 1, 2010



October, 2010 - La Feria de la salud in Princeton



2011 Graduation Day: Sigma Delta Pi Members

LANGUAGE CLUB ACTIVITIES

Chinese Culture Club Chinese New Year Celebration

On Feb. 9, 2011, the CCC, Chinese Cultural Club, the AAA, Asian American Association, and the non-heritage students taking Chinese courses worked together to present our first Chinese New Year celebration at TCNJ.

Our students learned the traditional Dragon Dance and the Lion Dance for the presentation in the bitter cold winter night rehearsals at the beginning of their busy semester. Jumping and running as part of the long swirling dragon's body, they sweated and laughed with friends over the excitement and some-

times embarrassment of learning an entirely new dance. Particularly impressive was the way that students were able to pick up the difficult choreography and skills in the roles of the lion's head, the dragon's head, and the dancing pearl that the dragon chases through the sky. However, in a testament to their dedication, our students were able to learn those very complicated, but crucial parts. The performance was even accompanied by a rousing and rumbling drumbeat, bringing vigor and excitement to both performers and audience in the New Year spirit.

The celebration also included Chinese musical instruments performed by TCNJ students and professional musicians. The Beijing Opera and Chinese Folk Dance also brought in colorful cultural elements, which amazed the audience. There was also a Chinese Cultural Workshops which included paper cutting, Chinese painting, calligraphy, and Chinese diablo Yo-Yo.

Our special guest, Mayor of West Windsor, Dr. Shin-Fu Hsueh took time out of his busy schedule to attend this event. He applauded the success of this event, saying, "The crowd at Brower Students Center that night was the biggest I have ever witnessed over the many times I've visited TCNJ."

Dr. Leonard Goodman, Professor of Economics from Rutgers University, attended our event and spoke about his experience of learning Chinese language and its benefits. Dr. Goodman also sang and memorized a Chinese song, "Tian Mi Mi", for us. Two TCNJ baseball coaches, Robert Buskett and David Palese, also attended to share their fascinating work experiences in China.

"All this amazing work was just a small part of the Chinese culture we hope to bring in to share with the students and faculty at TCNJ. We encourage students to study abroad and embrace global engagement through their own experiences." Dean of the School of Culture and Society, Dr. Benjamin Rifkin's remarks brightened the wonderful and enjoyable evening.



(Above): TCNJ Dragon Team.



(Above): First row, from left to right: Dr. Benjamin Rifkin, Dean of the School of Culture and Society, TCNJ (left 1st); Mayor of West Windsor, Dr. Shin Fu Hsueh; Professor Celia Liu; Dr. Qin Shao; Dr. Jia Yan Mi; Second row: TCNJ Dragon Team.

FACULTY NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Dr. Deborah Compte:

- An article entitled "Zoraida and Zelima : Cultural Cross-Dressing in Cervantes and Zayas," will be published in a forthcoming volume of *Hispanic Journal*
- Presented a paper at the session "Critical Discourses: Early Modern Spanish Literary Women" at the NEMLA conference in New Brunswick, NJ in April 2011.
- Gave a talk on Jeronimo de Barrionuevo's *Avisos* at the Universidad Catolica in Guayaquil, Ecuador in June 2011.

Dr. Joseph Goebel:

- Principal speaker at the Fall Conference of the Modern Language Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. Dr. Goebel gave two presentations on concrete applications of current second language acquisition theories at George Mason University in Virginia and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.
- Locally, he presented workshops in New Jersey for the South Orange-Maplewood School District and the South Jersey World Language Institute in Haddonfield, as well as the Bucks County Intermediate Unit in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Isabel Kentengian:

Presented three academic papers on different aspects of global cultural exchange and contact. The first paper was a history of the origins of what is being called the "global network university", which traced the evolution of the New York University in Spain junior year abroad and other internationalization projects at NYU. In the second paper, she identified variables that influence the inclusiveness and orientation of global programs, their "cosmopolitanism", in order to gauge the effects of internationalization on the production and distribution of knowledge in the global era. The third paper was an analysis of key shifts in representation of immigrants in Spanish contemporary cinema, arguing that those films that depict a circular voyage offer the most complex and complete representations due to the shifting positions of both immigrants and host nationals.

- "Junior Year in Madrid: The 1958 Beginnings of NYU as a Global Network University." Presented March 26, 2011 at the Sixth Annual International Education Conference. Steinhardt School of Culture, Education & Human Development, New York University, New York, NY.
- "The global/local dynamic in global undergraduate programs: implications for cosmopolitanism." Presented May 3, 2011 at the 55th Comparative and International Society Conference. Montréal, Quebec, Canada
- "De pueblo emigrante a país de inmigrantes: un análisis de la representación del 'otro' en España en la cinematografía contemporánea." Presented June 3, 2011 at the XXXI Asamblea de ALDEEU (Spanish Professionals in the United States). Ithaca, New York.

Dr. Jiayan Mi:

Published the following articles: "Consuming Tibet: Imperial Romance and the Wretched of Holy Plateau" (co-authored with Jason Tonic). *Tamkang Review* (fall 2011); "Rewriting Border Ecography: Double Optics and Identity in Raymond Williams's *Border Country*" (with Jason Tonic). *College Literature* (provisional acceptance for revision); and (in Chinese)

Uncanny Planet : Ecoggedon, Ecological Unconscious and Water Pathology in New Chinese Cinema." *Yangtze River Review*. 25.6 (December 2010): 79-89.

Presented a paper titled "Navigating the Dangerous AlienNation: Schizoid Citizenship, Deadly Romance and Infernal Transcendence in the Sin City of Noirs" at the conference on "Space and Time in Chinese-language Cinema., University of California, Davis, Nov. 5-6. His abstract titled "Despoil the Earth: Reconfiguring Political Economy of *Kaihuang Zhongdi*/ Reclamation in Socialist China" was accepted for presentation at The Annual Convention of Association for Asian Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii, April 3, 2011. He also organized and chaired a panel on "Planetary Lyricism in Modern Chinese Poetry" for NEMLA at Rutgers University, April 7, 2011.

Invited to serve as the cultural consultant for Bertolt Brecht's play "The Good Person of Setzuan" performed at Berlind Theatre, Princeton University, November 12, 2010. He was invited to present a paper titled "Despoil the Earth: Reconfiguring Political Economy of *Kaihuang Zhongdi*/ Wilderness Reclamation in Socialist Chinese Cinema" at the symposium on "Chinese Ecocriticism" co-sponsored by the Confucius Institute at Rutgers University (CIRU) and Rutgers SAS's "The 2010-2011 Global Initiative" at Rutgers University, April 21, 2011. He was also invited to participate in a Workshop of Modern China Seminar: Culture and Society "The Great Divide in China: Cold War Culture and After" at the University of Pennsylvania, February 26, Saturday. He was invited to be the panelist on "Artists' View of Nature" by Art Next Galley in New York, April 17. Dr. Mi was recently invited to read his three poems (in both Chinese

FACULTY NEWS & ACTIVITIES – CONTINUED

Dr. Jiayan Mi - Continued:

and English) at the event of "Into East River(s): Chinese / American Artists and Asian American Poets" in Hunter College, New York, June 2, 2011.

Currently co-curating with Emily Croll, new director of TCNJ Art Gallery, a Chinese art exhibition "Inter-Mediate: Interventions by Chinese Artists from New York City" for TCNJ Art Gallery in the fall semester. For his research project in the next school year, he will edit an anthology on Chinese ecopoetry tentatively titled "Good Rains: Planetary Lyricism in Modern Chinese Poetry."

Invited to serve as the guest editor and reviewer for the June 2011 special issue on "SF Planetary Narratives" for the avant-garde literary bi-monthly *Chutzpah* in China."

Dr. Adriana Rosman-Askot:

Chaired a panel on *Trauma and Memory in Latin American Literature and Film* at the NeMLA Conference in April held at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

She's currently working on a chapter for a book of essays on *Dictatorships in the Hispanic World* to be published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, with Bucknell University Press, and continues to work on a book that explores the psychological scars of repression in the literature of the Southern Cone.

Dr. Teresa San Pedro:

The 2010-2011 academic year was very fruitful for professor Teresa Anta San Pedro. Her academic production really started in the month of July, at the TCNJ in Madrid Summer Program. One of the students in her Current Events Class did a presentation of an article that appeared in the Spanish newspaper *El Pais*, about the conflict between the Pacha Mama (Mother Earth) and progress in the region of the Andes. The whole class thought that it was a very interesting topic, so Dr. San Pedro encouraged all students to continue with the research. Towards the middle of July, San Pedro saw a call for papers for the 2010 International Conference of CIALC (Congreso Internacional de America Latina y el Caribe) that was going to take place in South Korea in October. The deadline was approaching so, after doing some very quick research, she sent a proposal that was accepted within two weeks. When back to the United States, only one of the students, from that class, was interested in continuing with the research, Dennis Elwell. Dennis and the professor did research on a daily basis before the beginning of the fall semester and on weekends after classes started. They also exchanged articles of interest and met once or twice a week.

In October Dr. San Pedro went to present her paper at Busan, South Korea. To her surprise, the Korean government, was interested in her paper, because in her research she had discovered that Bolivia had the largest reserves of lithium in the world and the plans that the president of that country, Evo Morales, had for the development of that industry. Due to that, the Institute of Iberoamerican Studies at the University of Pusan and the Institute of Latin American Studies at the National University of Seoul paid for her hotel and also gave her spending money. The greatest reward was that her paper entitled "El presente estado de la 'justicia indigena' en Peru, Ecuador y Bolivia" was selected and published in the Conference Proceedings in the volume *Independence and Revolution: Rethinking Modern Latin America*. Dennis also gained a lot from the experience. He continued doing very interesting research for the rest of the semester, presented a paper at the Student Achievement in the fall, and received credit for an Independent Study Course.



Teresa San Pedro at Conference in Ithaca, NY, June 2011

Before the TCNJ Summer Program in Madrid starts Dr. San Pedro will present papers at two conferences. On the 16th of June she will present "La minotaura de Aida Toledo en su versión de los mitos clásicos" at the symposium, *Reflexiones de género en torno al Siglo XXI: del texto a la imagen*. She was invited by the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid. On the 17th of June she will present the paper "Indigenous Cosmology of the Americas and Progress" at the 11th International Conference on Knowledge, Culture and Change in Organizations, San Pablo CEU University, Madrid. This last presentation is an update of the one presented in South Korea

FACULTY NEWS & ACTIVITIES – CONTINUED

**Dr. David Stillman &
Ms. Tulia Jimenez-Vergara:**

This year the coordinators of the Conversation Hour program (soon to be known as Oral Proficiency Sessions), Professor Tulia Jiménez-Vergara and Dr. David M. Stillman, participated in a roundtable discussion at the Northeast Modern Language Association on the topic *Teaching in Lean Times*. Faculty from four colleges and universities (including TCNJ) presented. Our student payroll coordinators, Paige Kayzar and Joshua Lugar, also took part in this discussion. This was the sixth presentation at national and regional conferences on the TCNJ conversation hour program since the program was initiated.

Dr. Ann Warner-Ault:

I presented a poster along with Chris Ault (Interactive Multimedia) Teresa Nakra (Music) and Ursula Wolz (Computer Science) at the Conference for the Northeast Association for Language Learning Technology at the University of Pennsylvania on April 2nd. The poster was entitled "Language Learning through Kinesthetic Interfaces". It was a presentation about the Spanish-learning video game we created a few years ago. The conference gave us a lot of ideas and Chris and I are currently working on a new type of Spanish learning game for mobile phones.

In June, Isabel Kentengian, Teresa San Pedro, Caitlin Duffy (a student) and I presented papers on immigration at the ALDEEU conference in Ithaca, NY. My paper is called "Losing Their Innocence on the Way: Young Unaccompanied Immigrants in Recent Works". I'm looking at four recent movies, a documentary and a work of non-fiction, all of which tell about immigration from the point of view of children or adolescents that attempt to cross borders alone, often in search of the parent or parents who have left them behind to find better economic opportunities in "the north".



(from right to left) Ann Warner-Ault, Caitlin Duffy (student), Isabel Kentengian & Teresa San Pedro (top)

FACULTY NEWS & ACTIVITIES – CONTINUED

Italian Faculty News from NeMLA Convention

Dr. Simona Wright:

The 42nd annual NeMLA Convention, held in New Brunswick and sponsored by Rutgers University, was a great success with over 370 sessions and 1,700 participants. Dr. Simona Wright, NeMLA President, welcomed the NeMLA participants at the Opening Event (April 7th, 2011), which featured selected readings by acclaimed poets Rachel Hadas and Mark Doty. On Friday, April 8th, Dr. Wright welcomed and introduced the NeMLA Keynote speaker, well-known linguist and anthropologist Ana Celia Zentella, whose lecture, entitled "Language Minorities in the USA in an English-Only Era," debated social-political, and cultural issues such as language, politics, and agency, that resonated with the research and intellectual interests of NeMLA participants.

On Thursday, April 7, Simona Wright and Elena Grianti-Schechter participated in the workshop entitled "Oltre la piazza, il Colosseo e il tiramisù: alla scoperta della cultura italiana dal primo livello." The workshop introduced innovative ways to teach Italian by exploring different techniques and methodologies and highlighting verbal and non-verbal modes of communication unknown to English-speakers.

On Saturday, Dr. Wright presented her work, "'Facebook, Twitter and Shakespeare: A (R)evolution'" in the Seminar *Italian Media Socialization. Between Private, Public and On-line Narratives* chaired by Sonia Massari (Università di Siena). Dr. Wright's paper and research draws from the latest work of Dr. Alan Liu (UC Santa Barbara), on the age of Information Technology and on the ways IT and Academe need to actively intersect and productively interact in the XXI century.

On the same day, Dr. Wright was invited to participate in the Round Table on *Publishing Articles in Academic Journals*, organized by Suha Kudsieh (College of Staten Island-CUNY). Her presentation, entitled "NeMLA Italian Studies: New Perspectives for Italian and Italian Studies in the XXI century," summarized the latest developments in the history of the NeMLA Italian publication and gave insights into its future strategies and plans.



Dr. Simona Wright, NeMLA Convention

Dr. Federica Anichini:

At the 42nd Annual NeMLA Convention, Dr. Federica Anichini organized and chaired a session on Guido Cavalcanti, entitled *Guido Cavalcanti and his Legacy*.

Dr. Anichini also presented her paper, entitled: "Cavalcantian Traces in Giacomo Leopardi's *Zibaldone*." In her investigation of the literary relation between Guido Cavalcanti and Giacomo Leopardi, Dr. Anichini moved backward: rather than mapping Cavalcanti in Leopardi, it employs Leopardi to cast light on Cavalcanti. More specifically, it employs the author of the *Zibaldone* to emphasize how both poets are 'modern'; that is, poets who act as an instrument of learning within the confined, because strictly sensorial, space inhabited by humans. In their lines, the poet is the catalyst of a language stemming from, and enclosed in, nature.

Ms. Elena Grianti-Schechter:

On Friday, April 8, Elena Grianti-Schechter presented her paper entitled "The Private and Public Life of Women in the Renaissance" in the session entitled *Thinking (of) Women in the Italian Renaissance*. In her presentation, Dr. Grianti talked about the differences between married and unmarried Renaissance women, focusing on their status within their socio-economic environment, their legal rights, and their duties.

At the Roundtable entitled: *Fashion and Costume as Mirrors of Society and Time* (Friday, April 8th), Dr. Grianti presented "Dress in the Late Medieval Period and Early Renaissance." In her presentation, Dr. Grianti discussed the new weaving and dyeing techniques introduced in the Middle Ages, the flourishing fabric trade and the taste for exotic products and how fashion began and gained recognition and importance during the Renaissance.

ITALIAN PROGRAM END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

FESTA DA SIMONA (End of the Year Party at Simona Wright's Home)

As it is customary, the students in the Italian program were invited at Simona Wright's home on May 1st, 2011. Food, fun, and games to celebrate the end of another successful semester and to spend some time tasting Italian specialties and chatting with friends and colleagues. Present were Dr. Grianti-Schechter (Italian instructor), Dr. Dan Chandler (Phys. Ed. Department), and Dr. R. Donald Wright (School of Ed., retired). Students came from ITL 101-102-103-211 and 240. What an enjoyable afternoon!



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Do you have something that you want to share with the department, like a publication, award, internship, or just an interesting story?

We'd love to hear about it!

Please contact:

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