Dear Friends of the Department of Languages,

This year we have pursued several important initiatives: new large-enrollment courses, new B.A. programs, an increased study-abroad presence, as well as a major renovation of the language labs.

We created two new courses, World Languages and World Cinemas, to attract a broad student audience. The Board of Trustees has recently approved two new B.A. programs that require significant participation from the department, Global Studies and Film and International Culture. We anticipate that these programs will play a large role in stressing the necessity of global awareness, as well as in upgrading the variety of our humanities course offerings.

In China and Argentina, we continue to develop our study-abroad presence, based on a flexible multi-disciplinary model. We plan to apply this model to other programs as well.

Finally, we are currently raising funds for a complete renovation of the language labs, to make the labs more cost efficient and user-friendly by creating an attractive open space, a sort of internet cafe. We will continue to build our programs this year. Indeed, we are adding a lecturer in Arabic, thanks to the dean’s generosity, and seek to add a lecturer in Portuguese as well. In this era of dwindling budget resources, we are doing our best to offer instruction in crucial modern languages and cultures. This is, of course, no easy task, but our colleagues are optimistic and have made many contributions this year; their help has been invaluable.

We also welcome the help of our alumni; please write us with your advice.

Best wishes,

Yanming An
Interim Chair and Professor of Chinese and Philosophy

Jeff Love
Interim Associate Chair and Professor of German and Russian

Creative Inquiry Students Present Research at Conference

Five Clemson students enrolled in Associate Professor of Spanish Graciela Tissera’s Creative Inquiry classes presented their own independent research at the 33rd Annual Southwest/Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference (SW/TX PCA/ACA), held February 8–11, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The SW/TX PCA/ACA is the premier regional conference promoting the interdisciplinary study of popular and American literary, historical, visual, and other cultural and media texts. Offerings have grown over the years to include areas of international study.

Creative Inquiry is a unique program at Clemson University that allows undergraduate students to conduct research in areas of interest to them. The investigations are team-based and led by a faculty mentor. Students generally dedicate two to four semesters to a research project and receive course credit.

(Continued on page 2)

Clemson Hosts Japanese Teachers’ Conference

Clemson University hosted the 27th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Teachers of Japanese (SEATJ) on February 25 and 26, 2012. Japanese teachers from kindergarten to the college level were invited to learn how they can adapt to academic changes they face in the 21st century. The conference sessions were organized around topics, such as language pedagogy, second-language acquisition, linguistics, literature, culture and computer-assisted language teaching. More than 40 educators from the Southeast and also from Japan, California and the New England area attended the conference. Fourteen individual papers and two panel sessions were presented.

SEATJ is a regional organization of scholars, teachers and students of Japanese language, literature and linguistics, which strives to promote academic work in the field and to further knowledge and appreciation of Japan and its culture. The organization holds an annual conference to provide its members with opportunities to exchange academic and professional insights, to publish research and to disseminate innovations in teaching and developments in the field.

(Continued on page 2)
Students participating in Tissera’s Creative Inquiry projects, titled “The Hispanic World through Film, Literature, and Media” and “Health and Business Topics in Film and Media,” focus on comparative film analysis to explore topics related to the Hispanic world. They research diverse topics, such as the impact of immigration and civil wars on people and nations, medical conditions, alternate realities, arcane superstitions, and illegal trade, among others. They also investigate countries and their history and culture from different perspectives to present original ideas on social and political changes, health and business issues, cultural clashes, identity and survival and the search for meaning in life.

In the panel, “Perspectives on Civil Wars and Survival in Film,” Thomas Cotton presented his paper “In the Eyes of War: Salvador and Machuca,” and Brooks Edwards presented “Representation of Survival in National Reorganization Processes through Argentinian Films.” In the “Exploring Cultures through Film” session, Jeremy Kincheloe reviewed his research on “Hispanic Children in the USA: Visual Learning, Filmic Portrayal,” Yahaira Aleman presented “The Long Journey to the Promised Eden in Maria Full of Grace and El Norte,” and Jessica Meehan reported on “The Paradox of Motherhood: Cinematic and Cultural Perspectives.” The students received competitive travel grants awarded by the Creative Inquiry Program to present their research.

Through these Creative Inquiry studies, students have the opportunity to conduct serious research and contribute substantially to the field of text and film analysis. This invaluable experience allows students to develop critical thinking, teamwork and presentation skills, abilities that serve to enrich both their professional and personal lives.

Clemson Hosts Japanese Teachers’ Conference (Continued from page 1)

Yasu-Hiko Tohsaku, the first president of the newly organized American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ) and professor at the University of California San Diego, was the keynote speaker. He presented “Japanese Language Education for the New Era.” Tohsaku is one of the top Japanese professors in the United States and wrote the first communicative-oriented Japanese textbook published in the United States. He is also well known for his lectures and advising in Japan, China and Korea.

Toshiko Calder, chair of the Board of Directors of Princeton Saturday School, was the special guest speaker and outlined “The Present and Future of Heritage Japanese Language Education” in her presentation. An open forum titled “Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) and Articulation” was also featured. Members of the Clemson University Japanese Cultural Association (Clemson’s Japanese Club) served as volunteers to assist with conference set-up, registration and technical assistance.

The 2012 conference is the third time that Clemson University has had the honor of hosting the event. The conference was financially supported by the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities, the Department of Languages, the Northeast Asia Council and the Japan Foundation. Toshiko Kishimoto, associate professor of Japanese at Clemson University and SEATJ 2012 coordinator, will be president of SEATJ during the 2012-2013 academic year.
Two new courses, “Introduction to World Languages” and “Introduction to World Cinemas,” have been developed by the Department of Languages. These courses will be team-taught and are recommended to both Department of Languages’ majors and minors and other students who have an interest in a cross-cultural perspective of languages and cinemas. These courses, taught in English, will bring the expertise of our faculty to a wider audience, and they will be at the core of some new and exciting majors in the college in Global Studies and Film and International Culture.

“Introduction to World Languages” will introduce students to the origin of languages and their development and change over time. In the course, students will also compare and contrast different language families, such as the Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan and Altaic language families. Additionally, philosophical discussions about the nature of language as a human phenomenon will allow students to examine critically its use in relation to society, politics, business and high and pop culture in our globally-connected world.

“Introduction to World Cinemas” focuses on the development of cinemas outside of the United States by examining representative works, genres and movements within their cultural context, such as Italian Neorealism and French New Wave cinema. Students will study the history and development of cinema as an art, an industry and a reflection of different cultural values; they will also compare different cinematic traditions and apply techniques of film analysis.

The course on world languages will begin in the spring semester of 2013, and the one on world cinemas will follow in the fall semester of 2013.
Faculty News

Clementina E. Adams, professor of Spanish, published a chapter, “Luz Argentina Chiriboga, La Estrella de Esmeraldas,” in the book Hijas del Munto: Biografías críticas de mujeres afrodescendientes de América Latina. She gave two presentations at Clemson University and was one of the three Clemson University representatives for the 2011-2012 South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Service Learning Award.

Lorenzo Borgiallo, visiting assistant professor of Italian, published an article entitled “De Sica’s The Children Are Watching Us: A Subversive Orphanization” in the volume Incontri cinematografici e culturali tra due mondi, ed. by Antonio Vitti, Pesaro: Metauro Edizioni, 2012. He was also invited to serve as a judge on the board of the College Essay Contest for the American Association of Teachers of Italian.

Stephen Fitzmaurice, visiting assistant professor of American Sign Language, was elected as the president of the South Carolina Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf for the 2012-2014 term. He was a featured TEDx speaker at Clemson and an invited trainer for the State Department of Education 2012 Research-to-Practice Institute in July.

Toshiko Kishimoto, associate professor of Japanese, received the National Scholar’s Award of Distinction in April. She took two students to Japan in August to present their research, “Rethinking Kanji Learning Methodologies: Crowd Sourcing Kanji Learning Methodology for Kanji Non-Natives,” at the International Conference on Japanese Language Education. She also presented papers at several national and regional conferences.

Johannes Schmidt, associate professor of German, presented “Connecting Science and Nature—Goethe and the Supernatural” at the 2012 annual meeting of the American Society of Eighteenth Century Studies in San Antonio. As the treasurer-secretary for the International Herder Society, he also organized two panels entitled “Johann Gottfried Herder: Narratives of Time, Progress and Surprise,” one of which he chaired.

Daniel J. Smith, associate professor of Spanish, participated in a panel presentation, “Language and Politics in a Polyglot World,” with Michael Morris at the International Studies Association South Conference in October 2011. At the Southern Conference on Language Teaching in March 2012, he presented research on the analysis of bilingual speech patterns as part of the session “Film and Media Studies.”

Graciela E. Tissera, associate professor of Spanish, published two articles: “Borges y las formas arquetípicas del tiempo” (Fundación Internacional Jorge Luis Borges) and “Teoría y práctica de los métodos de evaluación” (Universidad Nacional de Tucumán). She also presented two research papers on Latin American literature and film at national and international conferences.

Alumni Update: A Life and Career Linked to Other Cultures

by Ralph Rynes

While I was a senior at Clemson, Professor Margit Sinka encouraged me to apply for a Rotary Foundation Fellowship to study in Germany. I was accepted, beginning a relationship with Europe and Europeans that continues to this day. I studied not only psychology but also French, gaining fluency, along with Italian, Russian and Swedish. I returned after my fellowship and completed a master’s degree in psychology at the University of Hamburg. By this time, I had learned that I could not merely survive but thrive and further my career in another culture.

Later, I became interested in cognitive neuroscience and applied for and was accepted at l’Université Denis Diderot in Paris, where cutting edge research was being done in the field. Because of a bovine spongiform encephalopathy outbreak in Europe, my concentration moved into the infectious diseases aspect of neuroscience.

After completing doctorates and research residencies in neurology and neuroscience, I returned to the United States and did post-doctoral research at MIT. Since that time, I continue to follow and occasionally contribute to research in Prion Diseases, but I also focus on the neuro-chemical pathways of addiction.

I work in the largest HIV clinic in South Carolina. I maintain many friendships and professional relationships forged during the times I lived in Germany and France. I use Spanish and French daily in my career because we have many Latino and African patients in my clinic. I cannot imagine what my life would be like, had I not had the opportunity and the encouragement to live and study in other countries.

A Moment in History: 1989

Professor Emeritus of Spanish Gastón Fernández celebrated his retirement in December 1989 after teaching at Clemson for 28 years. Fernández was the first chair of the Spanish Section and coordinated summer study programs in Spain. He also founded Iota Phi in 1972, the Clemson chapter of the Spanish national honorary society, Sigma Delta Pi.

Fernández (far right) is pictured at his retirement reception in 1989, with Department of Languages’ faculty and friends, including (from left) York Brannock, assistant professor of French; Jacques Macy, assistant professor of French; Miriam Arnold, wife of Ed Arnold; and Ed Arnold, assistant professor of German.
Faculty Awards

Clementina E. Adams, professor of Spanish, was selected as a Clemson University Service Alliance Faculty Fellow for the academic year 2011-2012. Service Alliance Fellows teach at least one course utilizing service-learning research, conduct a service-learning workshop and serve as a consultant or mentor to faculty interested in implementing service-learning projects in their courses.

Kelly Davidson, lecturer of French and director of the Clemson University Language Laboratory, received a grant from the Humanities Advancement Board to host two experts on language laboratory design and technology and language learning. These consultants will help identify resources to create a laboratory space that is multifunctional, pedagogically successful, cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

Paula Heusinkveld, professor emerita of Spanish, was awarded the Nelson Brooks Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Culture by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in November at its annual conference in Denver. The award is given to foreign language educators who have contributed significantly over an extended period of time to the teaching of culture.

Amy Sawyer, lecturer of French, received a Humanities Advancement Board grant to help fund the Department of Languages' annual Declamation Contest. The contest offers high school students not only the opportunity to compete in foreign language poetry recitation but also to be introduced to Clemson University and the Department of Languages’ focus on language learning and globalization.

Johannes Schmidt, associate professor of German, received a grant from the Humanities Advancement Board for his class "The History of German Opera" offered in the fall of 2012. Funds will allow students to attend one performance by the Atlanta Opera House Company in Atlanta, Georgia, where they will be able to experience firsthand the culture and art of opera through a live performance.

Daniel Smith, associate professor of Spanish, received a College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities Faculty Research Development Award in 2012. He will have a course release to study Quechua/Spanish contact in Peru. The study will add to knowledge of Quechua dialects and the understanding of language contact and aid in the future development of literacy materials.

Eric Touya, associate professor of French, received the John B. & Thelma A. Gentry Award for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities from the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities. The award recognizes Touya for his innovative teaching methods that create a stimulating teaching environment and his collaborative work with fellow faculty.

Declamation Contestant Has Clemson Ties

The Department of Languages hosted approximately 400 high school students from South Carolina and Georgia on October 29, 2011, for the 39th Annual Poetry Declamation Contest. In the contest, students recited from memory two poems from their language of study or their native language, including Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian and Spanish.

One of those participants was Mamie Elizabeth Smith who won a second place medal in a French Level II contest. Smith is currently a junior at McIntosh High School in Peachtree City, Georgia, and has relatives with Clemson ties on both her mother’s and father’s side of the family. Smith’s maternal great-grandfather was William Wright Bryan, Sr., a 1926 graduate of Clemson, the vice president of development at Clemson from 1964 to 1970 and a Clemson Medallion recipient. Her great-great-grandfather, Arthur Buist Bryan, entered Clemson’s second class in 1894. He returned to Clemson in 1903 and was an English professor and editor of agricultural and other publications for 47 years.

Mamie Smith and her family can truly say that their blood runs orange, as their part of the “Clemson Family” reaches back several generations!

Department of Languages Launches New Website

This spring, the Department of Languages unveiled its newly redesigned website. A rotating banner on the home page, with links to additional information, highlights special departmental programs and events, such as study abroad programs and community service-learning opportunities. Users can more easily find current information about majors, clubs and social media outlets for the department, including Facebook (Clemson University Department of Languages) and Twitter (@CU_Languages). Please view the new website at: clemson.edu/caah/languages/.
Student Activities and Events, Fall 2011-Spring 2012

The Clemson University Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish National Honorary Society, held its annual initiation ceremony on April 5. President Warren Godfrey (second from left) conducted the ceremony. This year’s inductees included Alissa Fortune and Jeremy Kincheloe. Professor Roger Simpson (left) is the chapter’s advisor.

Six American Sign Language students attended the Annual Conference of the South Carolina Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf in Charleston from March 9-10. Chase Womack, president of the Clemson American Sign Language Club, and Lauren Jackson both served as student representatives for the entire conference. Josh Holmes, ASL-English Educational Interpreting student, was also elected as the South Carolina Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Member-at-Large for the 2012-2014 term.

The following students in Professor Graciela Tissera’s Creative Inquiry class presented their research at the 2012 Focus on Creative Inquiry Forum at Clemson’s Hendrix Center on April 10: Laura Carswell, Nicole Cooper, Thomas Cotton, Anaisa Figueroa, Chance Gregory, Shelby Jenkins, Jeremy Kincheloe, Maghan Knight, Peter Leahy, Jess Meehan, Julie Mobley, Nancy Parra, Josh Marciano, Jeff Schlandt, Racquel Shackleford and Emily Winburn. Students’ research focused on two projects: health and business topics in film and the Hispanic world through service-learning activities at Café Cultura, an outreach program organized by Strong Communities that offers educational activities to improve the lives of Latino families.

The Language and International Health program organized its first Global Healthcare Symposium at Clemson University on April 20. The symposium focused on research regarding the health needs of U.S. immigrants and communities in Third World countries with the following presentations: Jessica Meehan, L&IH Society, “Assessing Readiness to Treat Latino Patients in Future Healthcare Providers;” Dr. Arelis Moore, Center for Community Services, “Health Beliefs and Socio-Cultural Factors that Predict Cervical Cancer Screening Behaviors among Hispanic Women;” and Dr. Khoa Truong, Department of Public Health Sciences, “Health, Access to Healthcare, and Health Policy in Developing Countries.”

The Language and International Trade (L&IT) Society provides networking opportunities and a forum for exchanging ideas between students and international business representatives. Among the guests of the society this year were Ramon Nieves-Lugo, marketing director from the South Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Julien Camiade, Clemson graduate and marketing manager at Schneider USA.

The French Club held its biweekly French Table at Java City and hosted a Halloween party with the German Club at Friends Café, including costumes, an all-you-can-eat buffet and an opportunity to mix with another language club. The club participated in the World Bazaar in November, assisted with the Tournées Film Festival in March and served its ever-popular crêpes at the International Festival in April.

The German Section and the German Professional Society hosted their first Conference on German in the Professions on October 12, in the Hendrix Center Ballroom. The conference hosted representatives of eight German companies from the upstate, as well as the German-American Chamber of Commerce, to provide students of German in L&IT, business and engineering an opportunity to network with area companies, to learn about employer expectations of new graduates and also to give these business representatives an opportunity to meet students. Companies included BMW, Draexlmaier Automotive, Bosch-Rexroth, AFCO, Roedl and Partners, Hofmann Services, Montaplast and Tognum.

The French Club members served over 400 crêpes at the International Festival.
The 5th Annual Italian Studies Summit, held on November 10 at Clemson University, featured a film screening, various presentations and a staged drama by students. The day-long event opened with two lectures by professors of Italian David Cane (High Point University) and Roberto Dainotto (Duke University), followed by L’amore è..., a short play performed in Italian by Clemson students and directed by Clemson Visiting Assistant Professor Lorenzo Borgotallo. In the afternoon, participants enjoyed a presentation on trade and transportation by Sergio Fedelini, honorary consul of Italy and vice president of Italy-based Mediterranean Shipping Co. (USA). The keynote address by Italian composer Marco Biscarini presented a fascinating journey through the creative process of his internationally acclaimed musical masterpiece, the soundtrack project for the movie L’uomo che verrà (2009), by Giorgio Diritti, winner of three Italian Oscars in 2010.

The 5th Annual Language and International Trade (L&IT) Conference was held on April 4 at Clemson University’s Hendrix Center. The theme of this year’s conference was “Business Without Borders,” and the keynote speaker was Hayashi Nampachi, senior technical executive of Toyota Motor Corporation in Japan. Other presentations were given by Ben Green, vice president of Asia Pacific Teamstudio, and Uma Sridharan, visiting professor of International Business at Clemson University. In the afternoon, L&IT alumni led a panel discussion on their career paths after graduation from Clemson. The panel included Shannon Callihan, Kyle Cornelius, Eric Seawell, Jaclyn Spangler and Allison Trefzger. Student moderators were Taymond Maccormack and Holly McKissick, and the alumni commentator was Mark Mannella. Roundtable discussions on career and job opportunities were held between Clemson students and international business representatives from the Greenville, Charleston and Atlanta areas. The conference ended with an awards ceremony and networking reception.

The conference was organized by a committee of L&IT faculty in the Department of Languages: Professors Toshiko Kishimoto (chair), Yanhua Zhang (associate chair), Leslie Williams, Eric Touya, Luca Barattoni, Lee Ferrell and Maureen Zamora. The conference was sponsored by the Department of Languages, the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities, the College of Business and Behavioral Sciences, the Michelin Career Center, Rödl & Partner, the Alliance Française du Piedmont, Hofmann Services and Campus Banner + Design.

The German Section directed its annual original play on April 3, in Lee Hall Auditorium. This year’s play, Die Dreigroschenoper (The Three Penny Opera), spoofed the reality TV world of the Kardashian sisters, as Kim and Khloe attempted to destroy each other’s careers by strategically staging high profile weddings.

Hispanic Week, October 24-28, was highlighted by a series of special events, including a culture trivia night, a buffet and arts and crafts exposition, a movie presentation, poetry recitations by Nicaraguan poet Conny Palacios and students, and a live concert by Jorge Medina and Paula Heusinkveld, Heidi Montes, lecturer of Spanish, is pictured here at the buffet and arts and crafts exposition in a dress worn by the indigenous Guajira who live in western Venezuela on the border with Colombia.

The first Language and International Trade (L&IT) Cookout was held after the homecoming game at Abernathy Park in October. L&IT faculty members and students welcomed L&IT alumni back to Clemson.
We are excited about what you, our alumni and emeriti, are doing, and we want to offer you a way to stay connected. In order to showcase your talents and give you an opportunity to network with other alumni and emeriti, the alumni/emeriti page on the Department of Languages website is being redesigned. We need information from you in order to complete this resource. Please send anything you’d like to share about your career, achievements, family, or other noteworthy events, via email to Kelly Davidson (kdavids@clemson.edu). Please include your graduating class and degree, your long-term email address and a photo.

Calling All Alumni and Emeriti—Tell Us About Yourself!

We are excited about what you, our alumni and emeriti, are doing, and we want to offer you a way to stay connected. In order to showcase your talents and give you an opportunity to network with other alumni and emeriti, the alumni/emeriti page on the Department of Languages website is being redesigned. We need information from you in order to complete this resource. Please send anything you’d like to share about your career, achievements, family, or other noteworthy events, via email to Kelly Davidson (kdavids@clemson.edu). Please include your graduating class and degree, your long-term email address and a photo.

Emeriti Update: A Life Dedicated to Teaching

by Judy Melton

Upon completing my Ph.D. at Louisiana State University and teaching for three years at the University of Tulsa, I joined the Department of Languages at Clemson University in 1972. I taught many years in the German section, and in 1986, I became chair of the department. I served for nine years as chair and then returned to teaching both German and Women’s Studies courses full-time. I also directed the Women’s Studies Program. In 2001, I became an associate dean of the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities. During my years as chair and associate dean, a course that I often taught was “Art and Literature of the Holocaust” with Professor of English Alma Bennett. My background in German literature and culture along with my research for my book, published by the University of Iowa press, The Face of Exile, Autobiographical Journeys, helped to create this course. In this book, I examined autobiographies written by artists, writers, and others in Europe, who fled from their homelands during the Nazi period in such countries as Germany, France, Poland and other European countries.

In 2007 I retired from Clemson, and in 2008 I moved to Tryon, North Carolina, where I continue to dedicate time to teaching. I have been studying Ikebana, Japanese flower arranging, since 1985, and now I have time to focus on teaching this meditative art. I also volunteer at the Tryon Arts and Crafts Center and have become a volunteer community mediator for the Hendersonville/Polk Counties Mediation Center.

Thank You to Our Friends

The Department of Languages thanks all who have generously supported our efforts either by donating to departmental programs or by attending department-sponsored events. Your contributions support programs, such as travel grants for students to study abroad, the Declamation Contest, the Language and International Trade Conference and others. Please contact Rob Porter (rporter@clemson.edu) at the Office for Development, 110 Daniel Dr, Clemson, SC 29631, 864-986-8423, to find out how you can best target your gift.