Well, it’s been a few months since your fearless leader found time to put together our newsletter—so the Spring 2011 issue will be packed with news, announcements, upcoming and past events! This has already been quite a semester, with several searches going on throughout the department, more Language and Lit faculty and student achievements, and an ever-growing departmental family. We’re so happy to welcome Jill and Kevin’s Lovely Lilly and can’t wait to greet the arrival of Sila Kai Griffin in April! And let’s not forget that our dear Lynne Garcia, after the sad loss of her Reggie (RIP) has a new love in her life—the adorable Frankie. Ah, nothing like precious babies and cute puppies to brighten the halls of Reed!

Meet Language & Literature’s New Mascot, Frankie

News Flashes and Upcoming Events...

On Feb. 9th there will be a reception for Ambassadors from Luxembourg and Austria. This time we will be graced by the presence of two ambassadors at once: His Excellency Dr. Christian Prosl, Ambassador of Austria to the US and His Excellency Jean-Paul Senninger, Ambassador of Luxembourg to the US. Joining us as well will be the Honorable Donald J. Hansen, Honorary Consul General of Luxembourg in Florida, and the Honorable Gerda M. Hansen, Honorary Consul of Austria in W. Florida. Our goal is to strengthen “diplomatic relations” between their countries and FGCU, so please save the date! It’s a great opportunity to highlight our language program, study abroad initiatives, and fabulous Language and Literature Department!

Our big World Heritage Study Abroad fundraiser will be on April 2nd, when we produce our first annual Karni-Gras Festival at Gulf Coast Town Center. This event will combine the traditions common in the French, German and Latin-American nations celebrating Mardi-Gras and Karneval. In conjunction with Renta Broadcasting radio stations and a Salsa band, we will be holding costume parades for children and adults with face-painting, etc. GCTC restaurants will participate by donating a portion of their revenue and prizes for costumes and raffles will be donated by retail merchants. Please do save this date, too! Our students need your support!
Please alert your students to the **Spring 2011 Writing Center** hours noted below. Carol Bledsoe, English Instructor II/Writing Center Director, wants to draw attention to the fact that our satellite hours now include North Lake Village on Mondays from 5-7 (in addition to Everglades Hall Wednesdays 5-7).

- Mondays: 10-4:30
- Tuesdays: 10-6
- Wednesdays: 10-6
- Thursdays: 10-6
- Fridays: 11-4
- North Lake Village: Mondays 5-7
- Everglades Hall: Wednesdays 5-7

If you or your students have any questions, please contact Carol or check out her website for the Center: [http://www.fgcu.edu/WritingCenter/index.html](http://www.fgcu.edu/WritingCenter/index.html)

**From the Language Corner...**
(Thanks to Carol Fulton)

Thirty-six students gathered at the **Fulton** home to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the **Munich Oktoberfest** with Bratwurst and Spatenbräu! Much fun and food was had by all!

Nineteen German language students also participated in the **Oktoberfest** held by the **German-American Society** of Cape Coral in hopes of raising money for their up-coming World Heritage trip to Europe. Our students worked very hard serving food and waiting on tables for some of the 33,000 guests. They were complemented for their courtesy and work ethic throughout the event!

On November 12th, **Carol Fulton**, with the support of the **Language and Lit Department**, International Studies, and Academic Affairs hosted a visit from some international dignitaries. We held a reception for the Consular General of Austria and the Honorary Consuls of Austria and Luxemburg at Sugden Hall, where (thanks to Dean Henry’s support) I was able to present them with a small welcome gift. The Consular General also spent a session addressing Carol’s beginning German class. Honorary Consul Gerda Hansen then invited Carol and several of our students to her home in Estero for a brunch with the European community in the Consular General’s honor. This was a tremendous cultural opportunity for the students invited and they represented FGCU admirably! On January 21st **German language students** presented a “Zumba Night” at the student union. While less successful as a fund-raising event than we had hoped, it was a great event. I received notes from students who said they’d thoroughly enjoyed dancing Zumba-style! Next up: a “Sound of Music” evening with the help of the local European-American community and the **Bower School of Music**. We’ll keep you posted!

Also on the language front, the Language Club has continued to grow and thrive. Warren Fulton has started a new round of teacher training for interested students. **Brad Busbee** and **Anne-Marie Bouche** gave excellent guest lectures on the history of Indo-European languages and historic manuscripts in November. And, last but not least, the new German “Stammtisch” or “regular’s table,” began meeting on January 20th at **Vapiano in Gulf Coast Town Center**. Everyone interested in German or learning German is welcome. Announcements are sent out prior to each meeting so we hope to see you there!
Language and Lit Dept. reaches out…
Remember those old binders that we had in Reed 223? Well, we donated them to an elementary school in Missouri on behalf of our department and FGCU. I went to a website where school teachers around the country post their requests for needed supplies (www.iloveschools.com) and was able to match our binders with students at a Logan Rogersville School! Here they are holding up their decorated binders for us with happy smiles and a BIG THANK YOU from their teacher, Ms. Amy!

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*****Language & Lit Faculty Highlights*****


Anna Haney-Withrow also presented at Florida Educational Technology Conference. The title of her presentation was “Creating Serious Credibility for Seriously Fun Teaching.” Thanks to both Sheila and Anna for all they do to highlight innovative teaching! You’re the best!

Karen Tolchin will be Chairing a panel at the 2011 Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference and it will be an FGCU adjunct-ranked faculty-graduate student-recruitment production! The panel builds on Karen’s current book-in-progress, Mind the Gap: Moving Beyond Fidelity in 21st Century Film Adaptation Criticism. Presenting with her will be Elizabeth R. Epperson (M.A. Candidate, FGCU) and Niki Costantino (M.A. English FGCU). Karen will also be leading an expedition of our home-grown scholars and writers, Kimberly Lojewski and Robert Hiatt, to the Southern Humanities Conference (March 9-13 in Jacksonville, FL). Kimberly’s piece is called “Swamp Food at the Rapture Café,” while Robert’s is titled “White Bread and Tomato Juice.” The two FGCU-SHC creative writing panels will also feature Tom DeMarchi’s latest work! This should be an exciting collaboration!
On January 22, 2011, Sue Henshon presented “Careers in Creative Writing” at Focusing on the Future: A Career and Academic Planning Experience for High-Ability Students in Grades 6-12 and their Parents. The conference was hosted by The Center for Gifted Education at The College of William & Mary, and Sue led two separate workshops for students. On February 4-5, Sue will also be attending Charter Day at William & Mary College in her capacity as Vice President of the Southwest Florida William & Mary Alumni Chapter!

In October, our own Jim Brock was the featured reader at the Sam Pepys Open Mic Reading. He also read from his latest collection, Gods and Money, at the Miami International Book Fair in November!

Brad Busbee was interviewed on the history of European languages by WGCU’s Gulf Coast Live in November. Great topic—interesting speaker! The interview corresponded with Brad’s Sugden Hall lecture presentation on this topic!

In the fall, the Miami Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies sponsored the U.S. premier screening of El viajero inmóvil/The Immovable Traveler, a Cuban film by Tomás Piard. The screening was followed by a panel discussion “Piard, Lezama, and Baroque Eroticism” with filmmaker Tomás Piard directly from Havana and our very own Lezama specialist Enrique Márquez! The event was held at the Cosford Cine, University of Miami.

Also in the fall Rebecca Totaro, Jim Brock, Tom DeMarchi and yours truly, Myra Mendible, appeared on “FGCU Perspectives” to discuss the enduring value of literature. The program received such rave reviews from viewers that the host, Kevin Pierce, wrote, “Pretty sure I’ve heard more comment (positive) about our recent ‘FGCU Perspectives’ program than any other show I can remember.” How could we go wrong with a subject so dear to us, right?

Doug Harrison’s essay, “The Re-Purpose Driven Life: Contemporary Evangelicalism’s Covert Appropriation of Humanism” was accepted for presentation at the American Academy of Religion Conference in November. Well done, Doug!

A condensed version of my essay, “Post Vietnam Syndrome: National Identity, War, and the Politics of Humiliation” (first published in Radical Psychology) has been anthologized in The Yellow Peril Reader (New Press, 2011). The Editor, John Kuo Wei Tchen, is a historian, founder of Asian/Pacific/American Studies at NYU and co-founder of the Museum of Chinese in America. His book, San Francisco's Old Chinatown, won an American Book Award. I also had an essay accepted for presentation at the 9th International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities to be held in Granada, Spain this summer! Papers accepted for presentation at the conference are also eligible for publication in The International Journal of the Humanities.

Extra Special recognition
...goes to Rebecca Totaro, whose essay, “Securing Sleep in Hamlet” won the Monroe K. Spears Award! This award recognizes the essay published in each volume of SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900 most clearly “marked by clarity, economy, and felicity of expression and by elegant and discerning interpretation.” This prestigious recognition also came with an $800 check, a certificate, and an all-expense paid trip to MLA in Los Angeles to attend an honorary reception! Way to go, Rebecca! Congratulations on receiving this wonderful recognition of your work!
The last issue of our Newsletter missed some amazing news—but it’s never too late to celebrate your many accomplishments. For example, The Mangrove Review, our very own literary magazine, won the Arts Publication of the Year Award for 2010! As part of the Angels of the Arts Award, this event is hosted by the Alliance for the Arts of Lee County. The award recognized the magazine’s literary contribution to the arts community as well as our dear Jesse Milner—who won Literary Artist of the Year! Phil Huebeck (an FGCU graduate who did Mangrove's cover design for two years) won New Artist of the Year. It was a great night for FGCU—but most especially for those who have worked tirelessly to keep this fine magazine going! Thanks for your creativity and hard work!

Updates on our English students and graduates...

Kimberly Lojewski was just accepted into the University of Amherst's MFA program! It’s ranked 12th in the nation for Fiction and 4th in poetry by Poets & Writers! (In other words, this is a very big deal!) But it doesn’t end there: Kimberly also was a Finalist in the Fiction category for “While the Whipporwills Sing Ballads to a Bombardier in A Capella” in this year’s Aesthetica Magazine Creative Works Competition! With 4000 entries submitted, this is indeed a fantastic achievement. Congratulations, Kimberly! Fantastic recognition that couldn’t happen to a nicer person!

Crystal Matey, a first-year graduate student, had the conference paper she wrote for Doug Harrison’s Gospel Music and America Literature class, “'Beauty From Trash': Queer Identity and Gospel Music in Bastard Out of Carolina,” accepted at the Purdue University Interdisciplinary Graduate Symposium to be held later this semester! This is a national, well-regarded, peer-reviewed conference with only a 30% acceptance rate! Crystal was awarded an OSRP grant award to support this travel. Well done, Crystal!

Behzad Afsharnaseri (FGCU BA English 2009) is still teaching at Tabuk University in Saudi Arabia. Behzad has been thinking about ways to motivate his students to learn English, which is compulsory, and wanted to initiate email contact between our students and his. If you would like to consider such an arrangement, please let me know and I’ll put you in contact with Behzad.

Jonathan Glover (FGCU BA English 2007, UF PhD ABD) contributed to our Second Annual International Humanities Conference last October, reading excerpts of a work he published in a special issue of the South Atlantic Review. We also welcomed the excellent contributions by esteemed current and former English students: Joseph Weakland, “Virtuality and Embodiment in William Gibson’s Neuromancer” and Niki Costantino, “From Horizon to Horizon”: Combing the Natural World for Truth in Coetzee’s Waiting for the Barbarians.” Well done!

(The International Humanities Conference also featured readings by Linda Rowland, Jesse Millner, Sue Henshon, and yours truly!)

Scott Ortolano (FGCU English BA, MA 2008, PhD ABD, FSU) is on a Kingsbury fellowship this academic year and so will have extra time to work on his dissertation. He hopes to have a finished draft by the first half of the Fall 2011 semester. He is also the Graduate English Auxiliary Resource and assistant to the lit program, so if anyone has questions about FSU’s lit program, feel free to contact him.
Pooja Nair has been accepted in the Masters in Educational Psychology / Counseling starting this semester in Texas. She is also getting her teacher’s certification so she can begin teaching high school. Congrats, Pooja!

Carol Fulton’s German-language student, Jennifer Dake, is enrolled in an intensive, month-long language class in Vienna this month before beginning her semester abroad at the University of Salzburg!

**Beyond Academe…**

A lovely time was had by all who attended my L&L Department Halloween costume party! Thanks to all the assorted spooks, aliens, and literary characters that joined our celebration!

**Guess Who???</p>