



## A Message from the Chair of the Department, Dr. Craig Christy

This year the Department welcomed a new member to the faculty, Professor Scott Infanger, who is completing his Ph.D. in Spanish at Vanderbilt University. In January, Professor Infanger organized a three-day workshop for area foreign language educators and Department faculty to begin the process towards certification as Oral Language Proficiency Interview (OPI) Examiners. The OPI, developed under the American Council on the

Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and officially recognized by the American Council on Education (ACE), is widely used in academic and government settings to provide an accurate assessment of language ability. The Department plans to incorporate OPI testing throughout the Foreign Language curriculum to improve, and measure, student learning. This official measurement of language ability will also be extremely valuable to potential employers as well as to graduate schools where students may seek to continue their language study. A follow-up workshop, which will involve a significantly larger number of foreign language teachers in the greater Shoals area, is being planned for September.

The Department has also been very active in increasing student participation in study abroad programs. This year saw increased numbers of students studying French in France and Canada, German in Germany and Austria, and Spanish in Mexico and Spain, a development which supports and promotes the University-wide initiative to increase students' awareness of globalization.

Throughout the year, Department faculty have been busy conducting original research both stateside and abroad, and, in so doing, have kept vibrant their level of professional involvement and their classroom teaching, while at the same time encouraging their students, by example, to pursue their studies abroad.

The importance of gaining first-hand experience with other peoples, languages and cultures was also the theme of Professor Chiong-Yiao Chen's (Chair, Department of Art, UNA) address to students who were inducted, in April, into Phi Sigma Iota, the Foreign Language Honor Society. It is always a true pleasure to recognize students for their outstanding achievement in foreign language study.

As the new academic year gets underway in August, we anticipate numerous challenges including, but not limited to, increased focus on improving and assessing the Department's programs, finding new ways to incorporate technology into instruction, and potentially adding new courses to our curricular offerings. As always, we eagerly look forward to meeting these challenges!

## Phi Sigma Iota Inducts Four

Continuing the Department of Foreign Language's annual celebration of excellence in foreign language study, a ceremony of new inductions to Phi Sigma Iota, the foreign language honor society, was held on Thursday, April 17, 2008 in Wesleyan Hall. Phi Sigma Iota is a prestigious, nationally-recognized honors organization which invites an exclusive group of juniors and seniors to join its ranks every year. Students must be majors or minors in a foreign language, and they must have achieved a cumulative 3.5 grade point average in that language. This year's inductees were: Rachell Berry, Leisa Brown, Sheila Latham, and Joshua Smith.



Dr. Chiong-Yiao Chen, chair of the Department of Art, speaks to Phi Sigma Iota inductees and guests.

***“Those who know nothing  
of foreign languages know  
nothing of their own.”***

***—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe,  
dramatist, novelist, and  
philosopher (1749-1832)***

## Faculty News:

**Dr. Robert Adler**, Associate Professor of Spanish, has participated in several Holocaust related events. He was the first speaker in the Birmingham Public Library's Holocaust Survivors Speak series of programs (March 5, 2008), where, in his presentation entitled "A Reluctant Journey from Vienna to New York," he spoke about his father as a Holocaust survivor and the roles of Spain and the Dominican Republic in his survival. In March he also spoke in an educational program for two Sheffield Middle School classes that are studying *The Diary of Anne Frank*. As a member of the Alabama Holocaust Commission, he also helped plan the State Holocaust Days of Remembrance event in the State Capital (May 2008).



**Dr. Craig Christy**, Chair and Professor of German, Linguistics and International Studies, conducted archival research in Erfurt, Germany in March 2008. This research relates to his ongoing study of grammaticalization, specifically with regard to the linguistic theory of the German linguist and sinologist, Georg von der Gabelentz. He was awarded a University Research Grant to support his research of the French linguist Emile Benveniste's work on grammaticalization. He continues to contribute to the University's shared governance system through his work on the Faculty-Staff Welfare Committee, the International Programs and Offerings Committee, and the Salary Study Subcommittee.



**Mr. Scott Infanger**, Instructor of Spanish, together with other members of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages, hosted an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Training Workshop at UNA January 2-5, 2008. This workshop was presented by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages with support from the University. A total of eight Spanish faculty and instructors from UNA and the greater Shoals area participated in the workshop. Because of the success of the OPI workshop, the Department is organizing a second workshop open to all foreign language educators to be held in August 2008. Scott Infanger also presented a research paper at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington, Kentucky on April 19, 2008. His paper was titled "Machado's Picaros: Exploring the Ascendancy of Brazil's Literary (Anti) Heroes."



**Dr. Keith Lindley** co-presented with Dr. Claudia Vance research concerning Hispanic immigration into north Alabama. The venue for the presentation was the Oxford University Round Table on Diversity and the National Interest held at Harris Manchester College of Oxford University, UK, March 23-28, 2008. Dr. Lindley traveled to France March 19-23 to visit language schools in the Paris area. The visit was undertaken to identify the



best options for UNA students interested in intensive French language study during the summer. He is the recipient of an Arts and Science Research Grant to conduct research on Québécois culture at the National Library of Canada in Ottawa. He continues to volunteer his services as an interpreter at La Clínica Hispánica de Muscle Shoals, and serves at UNA as vice-chair of the General Education Advisory Committee and as incoming chairman of the Arts and Sciences Research and Development Committee. Dr. Lindley is also the faculty advisor to the French Club and Phi Sigma Iota Foreign Language Honor Society, and editor of *GlobalTalk*, the annual publication of the Department of Foreign Languages. He will lead a group of UNA students and members of the local community to Paris from June 4-13, 2008.

**Dr. Claudia Polo Vance**, Associate Professor of Spanish, traveled to Oxford University, Oxford, UK in March to present "The Impact of Hispanic Immigration on Race Relations in North Alabama" with Dr. Keith Lindley at the Oxford Round Table (topic: Race and Diversity). This presentation is based on her ongoing study of the socioeconomic impact of Hispanics in the Northwest Alabama area. Development of this project includes tracking migration patterns of Hispanics, creating questionnaires in Spanish to interview members of the Hispanic community, evaluating responses, and studying how the Northwest Alabama area is coping with a rapidly growing new sector of the local population.



Dr. Vance received a certification in grant writing after her participation in the three-day Auburn University Grant-Writing Workshop in February. Dr. Vance also participated in the Oral Proficiency Interview Training workshop (of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) in January in order to become an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Tester. The OPI is a standardized procedure for the global assessment of functional speaking ability and establishes a speaker's level of consistent functional ability as well as the clear upper limitations of that ability. Dr. Vance is the coordinator for the 2008 UNA Study-Aboard Trip to Mexico. She and Dr. Evan Ward will escort 18 students to the Spanish Institute of Merida in Merida, Mexico, with excursions throughout the Yucatan Peninsula. Dr. Vance is also the liaison between UNA students wanting to travel to Costa Rica and ILISA Language Institute, San Jose, Costa Rica. Dr. Vance has translated into Spanish and narrated the UNA recruitment video which will be used to recruit international students throughout Latin America. She has also served as a translator of documents for the Child Development Center at Kilby School, and she volunteers her time teaching Spanish to the kindergarteners at Kilby. She is continuing to work as a liaison with Lauderdale County Schools' Elementary Curriculum Director, John Mansell, to provide UNA volunteers (Spanish majors and minors) for non-speakers of English. Dr. Vance is Phi Kappa Phi President for the 2007-2008 academic year and President-Elect for 2008-2009.



Drs. Vance and Lindley made professional contacts as well as friends at the Oxford University Round Table on "Diversity and the National Interest." From left to right: Dr. Ceola Ross Baber of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, Dr. Keith Lindley, Dr. Claudia Vance, and Dr. Sally Penman of the Chicago Public Schools.

## Dr. Lindley and Dr. Vance Participate in Oxford Round Table

From March 23-28, Dr. Claudia Vance (Spanish) and Dr. Keith Lindley (French) were invited participants in an Oxford Round Table in Oxford, England. The Round Table, held at Harris Manchester College of Oxford University, was entitled "Diversity and the National Interest" and explored topics such as cultural identity and social enrichment, ethnicity and community enhancement, and religious tolerance and values. Drs. Vance and Lindley contributed to the forum by co-presenting a paper on the effects of Hispanic immigration into Alabama. The core research in the presentation was born out of an ongoing study conducted over the past eight years by Dr. Vance and her advanced Spanish students among migrants in northwest Alabama.

## Mr. Scott Infanger Organizes Oral Proficiency Interviewer Workshop

From January 2-5, area high school teachers of Spanish and UNA faculty members participated in a workshop designed to enhance their ability to assess their students' oral proficiency in Spanish. Organized by Mr. Scott Infanger, Instructor in Spanish, and held in Wesleyan Hall, the workshop was led by a certified trainer from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. After completing the workshop, participants could then begin the rigorous process of becoming an ACTFL-certified Oral Proficiency Interviewer, a designation allowing them to offer their assessment services using the internationally-recognized ACTFL oral proficiency scale. Participants were: Dr. Robert Adler (UNA Associate Professor of Spanish), Dr. Claudia Vance (UNA Associate Professor of Spanish), Mr. Scott Infanger (UNA Instructor of Spanish), Dr. Lee Hurren (UNA Professor and Chair of the Department of Secondary Education), Mrs. Suzanne Lindley (Teacher of Spanish and French, Florence High School), Mrs. Ana Pérez-Perry (Teacher of Spanish, Florence High School), Mrs. Emily Montgomery (Teacher of Spanish, Rogers High School), and Mrs. Maria Johnson (Teacher of Spanish, Muscle Shoals High School).



Participants in the Department of Foreign Languages OPI Workshop were, from left to right: Mrs. Emily Montgomery, Dr. Lee Hurren, Mrs. Suzanne Lindley, Mr. Scott Infanger, Dr. Claudia Vance, Dr. Robert Adler, Mrs. Maria Johnson, and Mrs. Ana Pérez-Perry.

## Travel Opportunities through the Department of Foreign Languages

The Department of Foreign Language offers opportunities to travel and study in Spain, France, Québec, Germany, Austria, and Mexico. Students may earn academic credit while abroad. For more information, contact:

- **Dr. Robert Adler** (rladler@una.edu, or 765-4687) for the program in Spain.
- **Dr. Keith Lindley** (kwlindley@una.edu, or 765-4602) for the programs in France and Québec.
- **Dr. Claudia Vance** (cpvance@una.edu, or 765-4501) for the program in Mexico.
- **Dr. Craig Christy** (tchristy@una.edu, or 765-4390) for the program in Germany and Austria.



# Global Talk

A Newsletter from the UNA  
Department of Foreign Languages

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Direct comments or questions about this newsletter to  
Dr. Keith Lindley: [kwindley@una.edu](mailto:kwindley@una.edu).*

## 'Friends of the Department'

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We'd love to hear from you! Call us at the Department of Foreign Languages at **(256) 765-4390** or visit our website at **[www2.una.edu/forlang/](http://www2.una.edu/forlang/)**. Our alumni are very important to us, and we continually update our contact information on each of you. If you have recently experienced changes in your life, especially a move or a name change, or if you know of alumni who do not receive our newsletter, please let us know!