



Department of Languages

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NEWS



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Dear Readers,

As we close the Spring 2019 semester, we have so much to celebrate, and it is truly an honor to celebrate with the students graduating in the class of 2019.

With this issue of el boletín, I invite you to learn about some of the many activities and events that have made this semester one of the Department of Languages' most active to date. Notably among these, the Foreign Language club organized several events, including most recently the Foreign Languages Matter Panel. In the wake of the removal of the languages requirement from the core curriculum, the Foreign Languages Matter Panel was brought together to discuss the importance of studying languages and the opportunities available to students at Xavier. Through organizing and participating in such events, students demonstrated that they understand the power of language study. They recognize that language constitutes a critical component of our individual and of our cultural identities. And they appreciate that learning foreign and second languages helps us to better understand our shared humanity while at the same time helping us to better understand and effectively negotiate our differences.

Discover more about our students and about the Department of Languages in this issue of el boletín. Please visit the department at any time to learn more about our programs and offerings.

Congratulations to the class of 2019! I wish you a wonderful summer full of learning and languages.

Warmly,
Giti D. Farudi
Head, Department of Languages



NEW CHINESE MINOR AT XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

In partnership with the Confucius Institute Xavier University of Louisiana has introduced a Chinese minor. The minor requires 18 credit hours in Chinese classes including one Chinese literature course.

The Confucius Institute also provides the opportunity for students studying Chinese to study abroad in China each summer .

Studying Mandarin at Xavier

By DILLON GUILLORY

NEW CHINESE MINOR AT XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

My experience studying Mandarin at Xavier has opened doors to opportunities I would have never previously dreamed. It has taken me across the globe and allowed me to make lifelong friends who even after years apart I still speak to. The class is easy to follow and balance with other studies. Even as a Biology/pre-med, I was still able to excel in and complete all the Mandarin courses Xavier had to offer.

In addition, completing the courses and working with the Confucius Institute reduced the price of my 2 week course in China, I ended up spending less than \$300 including lots of souvenirs. I became a Student Ambassador with China and am in the works to go back this summer (2019) through a Xavier connected SIT program. With them I'll be spending a month in China interning, gaining language credits, and learning Traditional Chinese Medicine. Looking back at my time at Xavier, my participation with the Mandarin courses was one of the most impactful and memorable parts of my experience. Knowing what it did for me I would recommend anyone, even if only a little interested, to consider taking the class and possibly finding their passion.





Meet Dr. Guanru Yin, Professor of Chinese



Where are you originally from? Hebei University, located in Baoding City, Hebei Province, China

What is your ethnicity? ethnicity (one of the 56 ethnicities in China)

What different languages can you speak? Chinese, English and Portuguese.

Have you traveled to different countries, if so what countries? If not, what countries would you like to travel to? I have been to Thailand and Brazil for teaching Chinese, traveled to Japan and Malaysia for vacation.

Where did you grow up? Tangshan City, Hebei Province, China

What inspired you to become a professor and why did you choose to work at Xavier? I was born in a family of educators; my parents are both college professors. China attaches importance to education and respect knowledge from thousands of years ago. The Confucius Institute at Xavier is in partnering with Hebei University (HBU). As a professor of College of International Education of HBU, I am willing to work at Xavier to let American students know more about Chinese language and culture, for me I can also experience a totally different life.



What made you want to teach a language class? My major is teaching Chinese to speakers of other languages. Language is closely linked with culture and always affects people's. Nowadays the globalization bring peoples more close, however it not necessarily remove

the psychological barriers and misunderstands between different nations, because the closer we are to each other, the easier to notice our different values. One possible way to solve is to understand other cultures (start from language) and their way of thinking. In my opinion, learning a foreign language will have a positive impact on one's view of the world. In addition, at present China is where ancient and modern coexist, I would like to introduce my country to the world by teaching Chinese language, which is so elegant and unique in my eyes and carries diverse culture. In short, I believe teaching Chinese can promote increased understanding between China and other countries.



What do you like to do during your free time when you are not occupied with school work? There is an old saying or proverb in Chinese: "Learn knowledge from thousands of books and accumulate experience by traveling thousands of miles." am fond of reading and traveling in my leisure time, also interested in writing traditional Chinese poems and photography.

What is one fun fact about you? lightly obsession: all my things should be in order, not in a mess.



Student Spotlight: Tyler Kelly



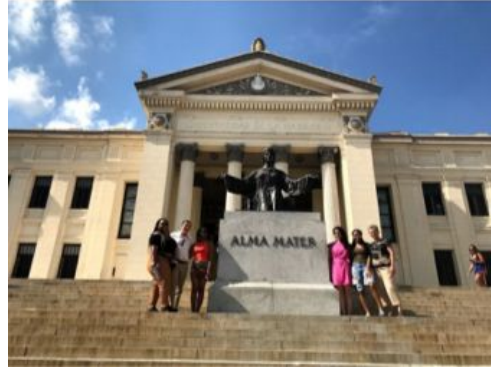
My name is Tyler Kelly and I am a senior, Biology pre-med major with minors in Chemistry and Spanish. A lot has changed for me since I arrived at Xavier. For one, I certainly did not think I would be pursuing a minor in **Spanish**. The first semester of my freshman year, I enrolled in Dr. Karen Moore's 2020 Spanish class in order to fulfill my language requirement. Little did I know, my experience in her class would open a **whole new path** for me. After taking her class, I decided that I wanted to continue taking Spanish because I loved learning about the rich and diverse Latino cultures around the world. I ultimately decided to **pursue a minor in Spanish** and was dedicated to becoming fluent. This led me to study abroad in Costa Rica with the **XULA in COSTA RICA program** with professor Farudi, which was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I also became a member of **Phi Sigma Iota, the International Language Honor Society, and the Foreign Language Club**. Through these experiences, I have had the opportunity to meet phenomenal people from all backgrounds and have worked to showcase Xavier's diverse

community. After graduating, I plan to use these experiences as a foundation to continue **exploring other cultures and languages** and also encourage others to do the same. As a future physician, my minor will help me build stronger relationships with my Spanish-speaking patients, who are often times underserved. I am so excited to use my Spanish minor and my experiences to help further Xavier's mission of creating a more just and humane society.





Service Learning & Spring Break in Cuba



During Spring break March 2019 students, faculty, and alumni participated in a service learning program in Havana, Cuba with professor Farudi. During this program students visited several sites including the University of Havana, Las Terrazas, Hotel Nacional, and La Plaza de la Revolución.



I had a phenomenal time on the Cuba trip. It was my first time flying abroad so I did not know what to expect. However, this trip exceeded any expectations I could have had. I learned so much about Cuba's culture, history, and beliefs. It was eye opening to see the unity Cubans had among each other. They treated everyone like they were family and with open arms. I never felt excluded even with my little knowledge of speaking Spanish because people were more than willing to help. One of highlights of the trip was visiting Las Terrazas, a small self-sufficient community located in Artemisa Province. It's a nature reserve land and it was beautiful. Another highlight was visiting Casa de Africa, a museum about the African influence in Cuba. This trip taught me that Cuba is wonderful country to explore because of its rich culture and history. I would definitely recommend this trip to other students because I had the time of my life.

~ Mariah Williams



I enjoyed the trip to Cuba and would recommend all students to try to attend. Seeing a different perspective of race, socialism, and culture was enlightening and educational. The people are exciting and willing to share and teach their culture to anyone who is willing to listen. The highlight of the trip for me was the food. I had never had emperor fish, yucca, guava, or starfruit. Having the opportunity to experience culture and tradition through food was eye opening and exciting. I learned a different side of history from the viewpoint of Cubans. We are all learning history from the eyes of American historians, writers, and politicians, but we never get a chance to see another perspective. Spring Break in Cuba was one for the books!

~Jimiya Harris



Left: From left to Right Jimiyia Harris, Nia Moncrief, Mariah Williams, Prof. Giti Farudi, Janice Guidry, Dr. Jerry Farmer (Theology).

Bottom Left: Ms. Janice Guidry XULA class of '68 enjoy the Malecón in Havana, Cuba.

Bottom Right: Student, Nia Moncrief, participates in a dance at La Casa de Africa in Havana. ferc



CONTACT THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL & INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMS (CIIP) TO LEARN MORE!



Languages Club Activities

The Foreign Languages Club hosted a variety of activities on campus over the past year including:

- Salsa and Chips: Latin Dance Lessons
- Monthly General Body Meetings: speakers are hosted and important upcoming events hosted by FLC or other cultural organizations on campus
- Chinese New Year Speaker
- Foreign Languages Matter Panel
- Phi Sigma Iota Induction Ceremony
- Dia de Los Muertos Cookie Decorating Celebration



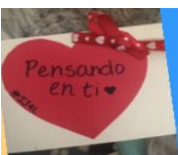
Community Service Events:

- Boo at the Zoo
- Trick-or-Trunk
- #BlackBirthMatters Conference
- MLK Day of Service
- Spring Prep at Crown Community Garden
- Agrowtopia Community Garden

Interested students can join the Foreign Languages Club on OrgSync! Or by sending an email to Meija Caldwell (mcaldwe3@xula.edu)

Foreign Languages Club and Phi Sigma Iota executive board members:

- Tyler Kelly, President
- Yailee Bangura, Vice-President
- Meija Caldwell, Secretary
- Tiffany Hogan, Publicity chair
- De'Lacy Lewis, Publicity chair
- Briya Kirksey, Community Service Coordinator
- Azalea Menefee, Event Coordinator
- Derrick Mullins, Treasurer
- Kanhiya Dickeson, Historian



"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his Heart."

Nelson Mandela



NAAAS Conference



February 2019: Dr. Susan Spillman and Dr. Carmen Cosme collaborated with ALACS students Zuri Wright, Katherine Clemons, and artist Barriane Franks in an academic presentation at the National Association of African American Studies and Affiliates* (NAAAS includes Hispanic /Latino American, Native American, and international Asian American Studies) in Dallas, Texas.



Phi Sigma Iota Foreign Language Honor Society Induction

On April 10th, 2019 Phi Sigma Iota, the foreign languages honor society, inducted six new members at the annual banquet. The 2019 inductees are: Peyton Culclager, Briya Kirksey, Edelmy Marin Bernandez, Derrick Mullins, Kaelan Vazquez, and Maddison Wilson.



Phi Sigma Iota International Foreign Languages Honor Society Inductees of the Beta Lambda Chapter, Xavier University of Louisiana

Induction to PSI is a high academic honor in the field of foreign languages and literature. We are delighted to welcome these inductees into this distinguished and proud organization that began in 1917, over one hundred years ago, and has a chapter, Lambda Beta, here on the Xavier University of Louisiana campus.

Faculty

Dr. Carmen Cosme has published her first book *Demando*. This publication presents the research of Afrodescendant women from Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic. This group of black researchers write about testimonies written by enslaved black women from Nueva Granada, Cuba, and Venezuela (1700-1800). This is a book about Afro-Latin American ancestral memory in an effort to recreate the history of black Afro-Descendant women in Latin America & the Caribbean. It is written in Spanish.

A digital version can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.icesi.edu.co/editorial/demando-mi-libertad>



Ms. Denise Crochet, instructor of American sign language, helped organize the TUXD SIGN LANGUAGE CONSORTIUM. This consortium included Tulane, Xavier, and Delgado universities. Several Xavier students participated in this evening of signing and networking!



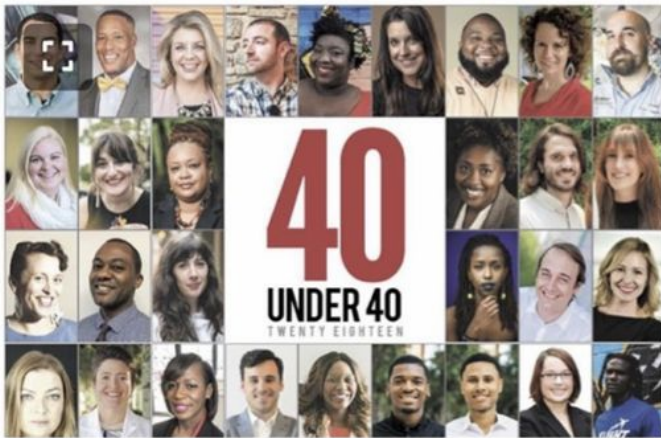


Faculty

Gambit Weekly’s annual “40 Under 40” list honors local movers and shakers under the age of 40. Department of Language faculty member, Giti Farudi, was part of the class of 2018.

Gambit's 40 Under 40: meet the 2018 class of New Orleans over-achievers

Nov 5, 2018 - 9:00 am



Giti Farudi, 36
Department chair,
Department of Languages
and lecturer of Spanish,
Xavier University

www.xula.edu

Photo by Zack Smith



Owner, Photographer, Originator

Originally from West Virginia, Giti Farudi grew up fascinated by language. She studied in Spain, Mexico and Cuba, and fell in love with the Spanish-speaking world.

Farudi relocated to New Orleans in 2010, and as the youngest Xavier department chair in recent history, she has been instrumental in fighting against the weakening of language requirements while increasing the number of minors in foreign languages.

"I love the students at Xavier," Farudi says. "Our new minor in Afro Latin American/Caribbean studies is the first undergraduate program of its kind in Louisiana to give scholarly consideration to the history and contributions of blacks in Latin America. We kicked off that program with a study abroad (program) in Cuba."

Farudi is working to close the language gap in historically black colleges and universities, particularly in the area of study abroad programs "so that all students have the chance to be globally minded and culturally competent," she says. — HOLLY HOBBS



In April Brother Herman Johnson, O.P. spent three days in Calgary, Alberta, Canada participating in a meeting that will prepare him and other Dominican friars for a meeting in South Vietnam this summer. Every nine years the Dominican Order, consisting of nearly 7,000 friars worldwide, select delegates to elect the successor of their 13th century Spanish founder, St. Dominic Guzman

The Calgary meeting was hosted by Vietnamese Canadian friars. "Their hospitality was awesome giving us a full day of touring beautiful frozen lakes and mountain ranges. I walked on frozen Lake Louise for over an hour. In their residence (priors), their love for the 16th century Afro-Peruvian saint, Martin de Porres, O.P. was evident by an attractive life size sculpture of him," Brother Herman said.



Faculty

Dr. Susan F. Spillman (Associate Professor, French) presented a paper, *Compère Lapin, Voyageur: Development and Presentation of a Culturally-Informed Play*, at the National Association of African American Studies & Affiliates 2019 National Conference Dallas, TX. Based on her original-language, the paper described Dr. Spillman's reformulation of familiar animal characters and their relationships into a three-act. act represents a cultural milieu in which the attached to the personages is demonstrated. In the first act, which takes place in West Africa, the need to restore and maintain social harmony is of primary importance. II and III show the metamorphosis of the same beloved characters into figures of resistance, reflecting the reinterpretation that took place as the enslaved peoples embodied the familiar figures with their own spirit of defiance. author has invented new misadventures and new fellow creatures, maintaining the spirit of humor and mischief while adding to the array of characters taken from the West African and Louisiana originals. Dr. Spillman developed a second presentation, *Think Globally, Learn Locally: Culture-Informed Approach to the Teaching of First-Year Language Classes*, which not presented due to a scheduling conflict. overview of a course grounded in the cultural realities of the particular situation of students who are learning French in a classroom in New Orleans and the assets available to them as they undertake an enriching experience of language acquisition, the project has been inclusion as an X-COR 1020 offering.

Right: Drs. Spillman and Cosme traveled with Afro Latin American and Caribbean studies students to Laura Plantation in Vacherie, Louisiana. ALACS students learned about Slavery in Latin America, the Caribbean, and New Orleans. On site, the students were exposed to the living conditions of enslaved people as sugar workers, and to the relationship that existed for more than 400 years between the French Master, the Duparc, and enslaved people from West Africa.



Left: Dr. Karen Moore, retired Associate Professor of Spanish, was the guest speaker at the Phi Sigma Iota induction banquet.



Summer Courses:

GET a head start on the Medical Spanish certificate program this summer! During Summer sessions 1 & 2 the Department of Languages is offering Spanish 1010, Spanish 1020, Spanish 1090, Spanish 2051, and Spanish 2052—ALL ONLINE!

XULA IN COSTA RICA SUMMER 2019

The following 18 students will study abroad for one month with the XULA in COSTA RICA Program: Taylor Brizill, Micaela Brown, Jazmine Campbell, John Ejim, Tayla Gaines, Arayah Goodlett, Amaya Gray, Jasmine Jones, Briya, Allen Lawrence, Desiree Littlejohn, Naomi Perry, Shamari Pitts, Lorenzo Rael, Jahde'Ja White, Jade Watson, Ebony Jack, Valerie McAllister

Students will live with host families, participate in several hours of medical observations and shadowing in Costa Rican clinics and hospitals, learn about traditional medicine and visit a BriBri community. They will also earn five Xavier credits.

Awards and Scholarships

Devin Alomonor, a senior French major from New York NY, has been accepted into the St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Tyler Kelly, a senior biology/premed major from Greenville SC, has been accepted into the University of South Carolina's College of Medicine.

Tayla Gaines, a freshmen biology/premed major from Avondale LA, has won a NAFSA Tamara H. Bryant Memorial Scholarship to attend the XULA in Costa Rica program this summer from the Fund for Education Abroad, which provides annual grants to U.S. students underrepresented in study abroad. She was one of 135 students chosen to receive the grant from among more than 2,300 applicants.

Allen Lawrence, a junior biology/premed major from Antioch CA, has been awarded a HI USA Explore the World to attend the XULA in Costa Rica program.

Lorenzo Rael, a sophomore psychology/premed major from Oakland, CA has been awarded a Gilman Scholarship on behalf of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to attend the XULA in Costa Rica program. The award is intended to better prepare students to thrive in the global economy and interdependent world. Gilman are often invited to attend diplomatic receptions, present on the U.S. higher education system, and network with foreign participants of U.S. Department of State exchange programs.

Katherine Clemons, a freshmen public health sciences major and Afro Latin American and Caribbean Studies minor from Houston, Texas has been awarded a \$500 scholarship for studies in ALCS.



Future Health Professionals

Are you looking for a program to boost your professional credentials? Do you want to learn to better communicate with Spanish-speaking patients? If so, this certificate is for you.

Spanish for Health Professionals

This is a 16-credit hour certificate with an optional clinical practicum and summer study in Costa Rica. Online language assessment or completion of Spanish 1020 is required to begin certificate program.

Required: 9 credit hours + 1 hour Capstone

Spanish 1090 – Conversation & Culture (3)
Spanish 2051 – Spanish for Medical Personnel (3)
Spanish 2052 – Intermediate Spanish for Medical Personnel (3)

Electives: 6 credit hours

Choose from Grammar, Conversation, Special topic, or Independent studies

Optional:

4 week International Practicum in Costa Rica (6)

Financial Aid is available!

For course information, contact:

Giti Farudi

*Head of the Dept. of Languages
gfarudi@xula.edu*

Apply Now!

For more information, please contact:

Xavier University of Louisiana - Center for Continuing Studies & Distance Education

Phone: 504-520-7669 - TOLL FREE 844-360-0491 - Email ccsde@xula.edu

Website: <http://www.xula.edu/ccsde/>