

vol. 4



Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

table of contents

Dear Readers	2
Poetry	4
La Ventana Americana by Erica Hauser	5
El camino hacia mí by Janhavi Kulkarni	6
Al partir en 2023 by Patrick Burnette	8
Art	9
Virgil's Underworld by Emma Morris	10
A Valentine for My Mother by Kendall Motley	11
Business Flyers by Spanish 325 Students	11
Collage inspirado en la película Las aventuras de Juan Planchard by Luis de Paz Capobianco	13
Walking Around de Neruda by Lauren Inkso	13
Collage of Flamenco by Amelia Page	14
Agarre del miedo by Kendall Howard	14
El poder del dinero by Anayiah Colton	15
Flowers by Mikayla Metts	15
Ataca by Alana Murray	16
Sueño Dorado by Maya Webb	16
Writing	17
Galileo Galilei, Sidereus Nuncius by Manuel Flores	18
La Pire Maladie est la Peur by Harumi Kano Torres	19
La somnolencia by Anna Stein	20
Relatos con cambio de narrador by SPN 310 Students	21
Chinese New Year by Dorothy Neal	22
Happy Shopping by Luke Painter	23
My Day by Susan Fong	24
Trips	25
Mercer on Mission: Dominican Republic Summer 2023	26
Study Abroad in Mexico Spring 2023	28
Mercer on Mission: Mexico Summer 2023	30
Enriching Experiences in Paris Spring 2023	32

table of contents

Clubs	34
Café Bon Ap!	35
French Club	36
Mercer Mandarin	37
Spanish Club	38
Spring Break in Rome with Latin Club Spring 2023	39
Spanish Table Talks	41
 Outside the Classroom	 42
Stratford Academy High School	43
Hispanic Health Fair 2023	44
Hispanic Education Fair 2023	45
 Interviews 46	
“Studying the Dead Living Language,” an interview by Kate Van Meter	47
“Matthew Thompson Reflects on his Experience in Mercer’s Foreign Language Department,” by Gabriel Kopp	49
 Faculty Corner 51	
“The French Bear” by Dr. Alexis L. Chauchois	52
Abstract of Chapter Ten of <i>Jean-Claude Charles</i> by Dr. Alexis Chauchois and Gilles Glacet.....	53
Faculty Achievements 2022-2023	54
 Acknowledgements	 56
 Staff.....	 57
 Index	 58



dear readers

With utmost enthusiasm, we present Volume 4 of Vox Populi, brimming with vibrant content and thought-provoking features that celebrate the diverse tapestry of our department's endeavors.

On our cover, Maya Webb's "Sueño Dorado/ Golden Dream" artwork, adorned with the monarch butterfly's colors and the snake's symbolism, invites you into a realm where cultures intertwine. The butterfly embodies immigration, transformation, and the beauty of reinvention, while the snake, in various mythologies, embodies both wisdom and fear. In this dichotomy lies the essence of this volume—exploring the duality within the narratives and art we present.

Within these pages, you will discover the fruits of service-learning projects in our Spanish classes, such as the Hispanic health organization and educational fair embodying our commitment to community engagement. The collaborative efforts of Dr. Roseau and Dr. Chauchois have bridged connections with local students eager to learn French, while our faculty's extracurricular initiatives underscore their dedication beyond the classroom.

Dr. Alexis L. Chauchois graces our faculty corner with "The French Bear," alongside innovative resources like the YouTube page fostering French language practice. We also proudly showcase the outstanding achievements of our faculty—Dr. Achim Kopp's prestigious Spencer B. King Distinguished Professor Award and Libertad Aranza's Innovations in Teaching Award.

dear readers

Moreover, this volume shines a spotlight on our students, celebrating the induction of Phi Sigma Iota members and highlighting the exceptional honors presentations from the academic year 2022-2023. It features insightful interviews with two remarkable graduates—Manuel Flores and Matthew Thompson—offering glimpses into their academic journey and aspirations beyond.

As we embark on future volumes, we extend an open invitation for submissions, encouraging students to share their outstanding work for potential inclusion. Anticipate more surprises and enriching content in the volumes to come as we strive to continue showcasing the brilliance within our department.

We invite you to delve into each section of our magazine, where stories, achievements, and passions converge, inspiring and captivating our readers. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

With most enthusiasm,

Libertad Aranza



vol. 4

poetry

La Ventana Americana

Erica Hauser

La Ventana Americana

Hay una ventana en mi cocina
 Ahí se puede ver la historia de mi familia.
 Cucharas, casitas de África y también una pintura.
 Partes de mi vida, todas muy íntimas

Una mezcla hermosa, preciosa,
 pero, ¿qué es mi "cosa"?
 ¿Quién soy yo?
 ¿De dónde vengo y a dónde voy?



Las casitas de África, parte de mi corazón,
 al lado de las tasas que hablan español.

Nuestra ventana siempre ha viajado
 casa a casa, lado al lado.
 Explicar su origen es difícil y también complicado.

Mi historia también es hermosa, preciosa...
 Muy semejante a una mariposa.

Mi identidad no viene de sola un país,
 es como una ventana, nuestra ventana,
 siempre mirando afuera, buscando, colectando.
 ¿Qué quiere decir ser americano?

Pues, miro mi ventana para eso...
 Mi tecolote brillante con colores,
 semejante a mi deseo para crecer y vivir en el momento.
 Las tasas que cargan mis identidades mundiales,
 que pueden cargar más de mis experiencias "americanas".

Y la luz del sol afuera.
 Enseñándome la manera,
 De ser mi propia persona, especialmente Erika.

El camino hacia mí

Janhavi Kulkarni

Hice muchas caminatas después de
emigrar a Estados Unidos.
Al principio, la caminata fue emocionante.
La tierra roja, el aire fresco,
Todo era nuevo.
Nuevas personas, nuevas vistas, nueva cultura.
Fue estimulante, era adictivo.
Así que caminé y caminé
Vi las Cataratas del Niágara, el Gran Cañón.
Vi Las Vegas y Nueva York
Y luego caminé más.

Caminé por cuatro meses, luego por cuatro años.
Y caminé más.
Pero la emoción comenzó a disminuir.
Ya no era nuevo.
estaba caminando,
Pero, en realidad no me estaba moviendo.
Estaba atascado, congelado frente
a dos caminos diferentes.
Y no sabía cuál tomar.

Un camino era hacia la persona que yo era,
El otro camino era hacia la persona que pensaba
que tenía que ser.
Eso fue inmigración para mi
Y para muchos otros.
La inmigración es dejar a tu familia.
La inmigración es confusión, perderse
en dos mundos diferentes.
La inmigración es sufrir internamente.

Pero la inmigración es aceptar el cambio, también.
La inmigración es adaptación.
Y yo aprendí a adaptarme.

Porque eso es lo que hacen los inmigrantes.
Sufrimos, pero sobrevivimos.
Por nuestra familia, por nuestro futuro.

No elegimos un camino u otro.
Creamos un nuevo camino.
Y el nuevo camino es una mezcla de
ambos mundos, ambas culturas.
El nuevo camino es un puente entre
lo que yo era y lo que quiero ser.
Es único y es mío.



Al partir en 2023

Patrick Burnette



Al partir en 2023



Adiós, Atlanta querida,
que por tantos años fue mi hogar.
Dejaré atrás tus calles y avenidas,
tus rascacielos que parecen tocar el cielo,
tus barrios llenos de vida y color.

Pero también dejo atrás
tus desigualdades y tus injusticias,
tus divisiones y tus tensiones,
tus problemas que nunca parecen resolverse.

¡Voy a partir! con una mezcla de tristeza y esperanza,
sabiendo que nunca te olvidaré,
que siempre llevaré conmigo tus lecciones
y tus maravillas que me hicieron amarte.

Adiós, Atlanta querida,
quizás algún día regrese a tus brazos,
y juntos construyamos un futuro mejor,
más justo, más unido, más humano.



GEORGIA AQUARIUM

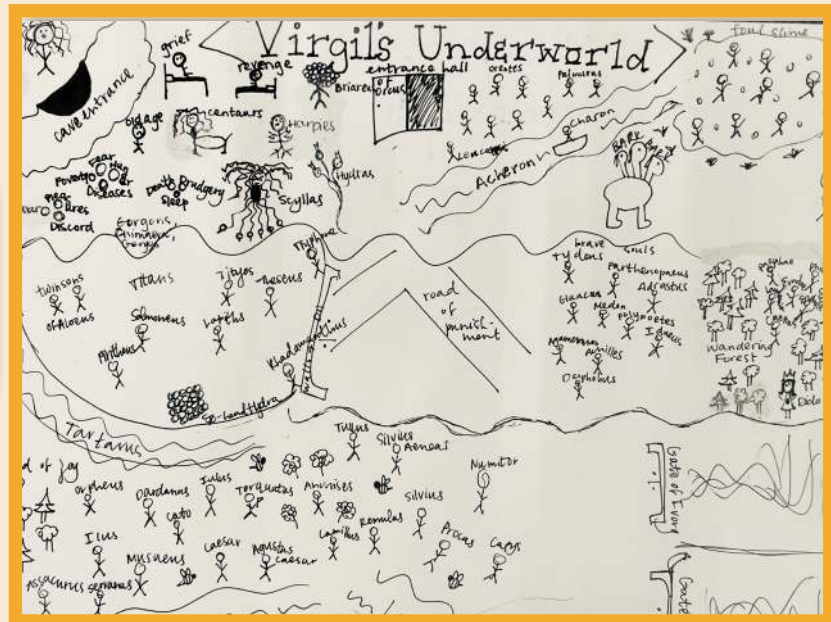
THE *Coca-Cola* COMPANY

vol. 4

art

Emma Morris

Emma's map came from an assignment to draw a map of the Underworld according to Virgil's description in the sixth book of the *Aeneid* (Latin 340, Spring 2023).

**Kendall Motley**

Kendall's cards came from a Valentine's Day assignment which was dedicated to her mother (Mandarin 112, Spring 2023).



**Thomas Patrick, Leesly Friare,
Kimberly Lopez and Noelle Senior**

These students created an ice-cream company for their start-up project titled, "Sabor a casa." They utilized their favorite ice-cream flavors as inspirations for the products.

**Loren Whitley, Samantha Vaquero-Covarrubias, Zaina Khutliwala, and
Michael Bowman**

These students created the company, "Despierta," a coffee company catered to college students.



Students from the Business Spanish 325 class worked on developing startup companies. Students worked in groups to create a fictitious company to apply all the knowledge and vocabulary about business in the course (SPN 325, Spring 2023).



El sol para la vida nocturna

**Miguel Sanchez-Ruiz,
Lauren Talbo, Arlene Perez,
Haley Lederer**
These students created, “Solisidro
Tequila,” a fictitious tequila
company.

**Afiya Aiyetoro, Dylan Alarcon,
Hannah Gray, and Arely
Cuevas-Flores**

These students created the com-
pany, “Teco Incorporado,” to help
other businesses care for the envi-
ronment using green-friendly
products.

TECO INCORPORADO

CONSULTORES DE FABRICACIÓN
ECOLÓGICA

+52 818-254-0005

tecoincorp@ecologico.com

Nuestra compañía quiere educar al público en la importancia de prácticas sostenibles especialmente para la fabricación. Nosotros ayudamos otras compañías a incorporar los métodos más sostenibles en sus operaciones. Podemos servir como consultores o socios para empresas que desean cambiar su estructura de producción actual.

PAQUETE DE PLATA Nosotros le damos a la empresa una estimación de qué hacer y cuánto los cambios cuestan. Precio: ~400,000 pesos	PAQUETE DE ORO Se ponemos en contacto con especialistas y proveedores de productos para comenzar el proceso de transformación. Precio: ~ 650,000 pesos
PAQUETE DE PLATINO Nosotros le damos a la empresa un pequeño equipo de nuestros propios	LOS PRECIOS VARIAN SEGÚN EL TAMAÑO DE LA EMPRESA.

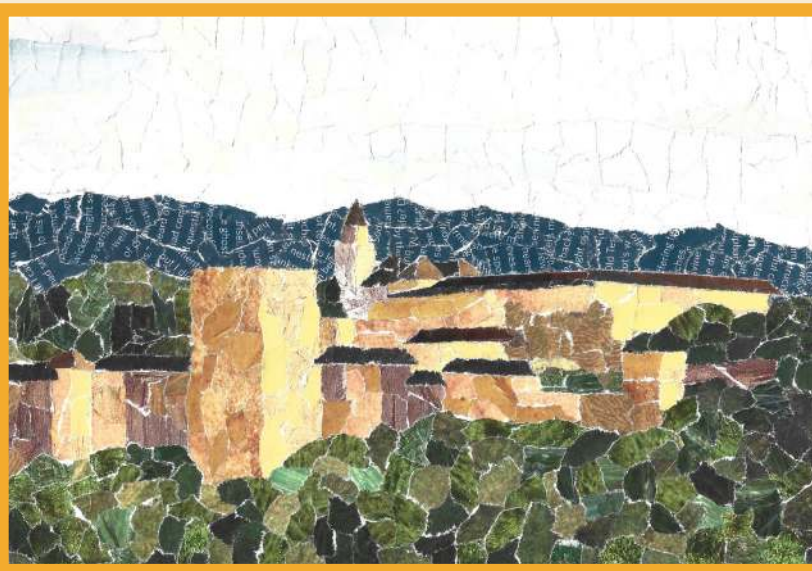
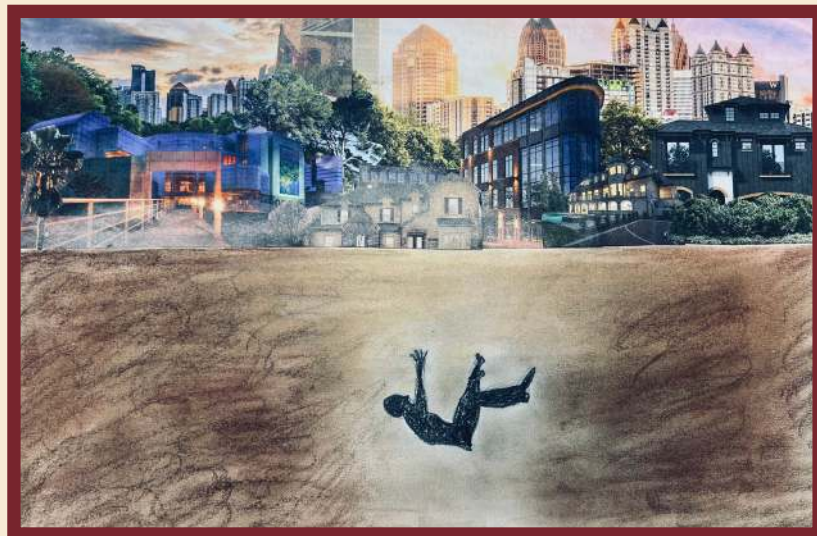


**Louis de Paz
Capobianco**

Inspired by the movie director, Juan Planchard, Luis made this collage (Spanish 310, Fall 2022).

Lauren Inkso

Lauren made this collage inspired by the poem *Walking Around* by Chilean author Pablo Neruda (Spanish 310, Fall 2022).



Haven Estabrook

Haven made this collage inspired by *La Alhambra* in Granada, Spain (Spanish 302, Spring 2023).

Amelia Page

Amelia made this gorgeous collage inspired by the Spaniard ballerinas of flamenco in Spain (Spanish 111, Spring 2023).



Kendall Howard

Kendall Howard was inspired by the topic of the power of fear within society to create a drawing (Spanish 301, Fall 2022).



Anayiah Colton

Anayiah Colton created a collage using the topic of the power of money (Spanish 301, Fall 2022).

Mikayla Metts

Inspired by the nature in the novel *Maria*, Mikayla Metts made knitted flowers (Spanish 306, Spring 2023).



Alana Murray

Alana Murray knitted a bowl of salad as a metaphor of immigration in the United States (Spanish 301, Fall 2022).



Maya Webb

Inspired by the topic of immigration, Maya Webb made a college showcasing the issue.

vol. 4

Writing

Galileo Galilei, *Sidereus Nuncius*

Manuel Flores

Galileo Galilei, *Sidereus Nuncius*

The *Sidereus Nuncius* is a short treatise, or pamphlet, on Galileo Galilei's astronomical observations. The text itself was first published in 1610 and dedicated to his former student, Cosimo II de' Medici, the Grand Duke of Tuscany. The treatise got Galileo in some hot water with the Catholic Church, as the Church doubled down on the idea that the celestial bodies were perfect, although Galileo's observations proved otherwise. The treatise was written in New Latin, which is a more contemporary form of Latin than Classical Latin. The following is the title of the treatise in Latin and English.

Sidereus nuncius: magna, longeque admirabilia spectacula pandens, suspiciendaque proponens unicuique, praesertim verò philosophis atque astronomis, quae à Galileo Galileo, patritio Florentino, Patavini Gymnasii publico mathematico, perspicilli: nuper à se reperiiti beneficio sunt observata in lunae facie, fixis innumeris, Lacteo Circulo, stellis nebulosis, apprime verò in quatuor planetis circa Iovis stellam disparibus intervallis, atque periodis, celeritate mirabili circumvolutis quos, nemini in hanc usque diem cognitos, novissimè author deprehendit primus; atque Medicea sidera nuncupandos decrevit

Stellar messenger: spreading great and very wonderful sights, and proposing them to be looked at by everyone, particularly by philosophers and astronomers, which have been observed by Galileo Galilei, patrician of Florence, public mathematician of the school of Padua, through the benefit of a telescope recently invented by him, on the face of the moon, on innumerable fixed stars, the Milky Way, nebulous stars, especially on four planets that revolve with wonderful celerity around the star of Juppiter with unequal intervals and periods, which, up to this day known to nobody, the author most recently discovered first, and decided to name "Medicean stars"

Manuel's translation of the Latin title of Galileo's *Sidereus Nuncius* was unrelated to any specific Latin class. Still, he applied his knowledge of Latin to a text he had encountered in his astronomy class.

La Pire Maladie est la Peur

Harumi Kano Torres

D'après l'article « Dans le cauchemar du docteur Knock » par Nicolas Gastineau, la réaction des gens vers le Covid se ressemble beaucoup à celle des personnages dans Knock, qui croit et réussit à convaincre le peuple que tout le monde est toujours malade. Aussi, dans « Les manifestations en Chine se multiplient contre la stratégie zéro Covid » par Le Monde, on apprend que le peuple Chinois ne veut plus suivre les préventions extrêmes de Covid imposées par le gouvernement. Alors, en comparant le Covid et les œuvres classiques de littérature, Gastineau écrit, « L'intérêt de lire cette pièce [Knock] aujourd'hui n'est donc pas de dénoncer la tyrannie médicale ou l'empire des médecins ; simplement de rire un peu de nos malheurs. »

En étudiant des œuvres littéraires sur la médecine, comme *Le Malade Imaginaire* par Molière, et *Knock* par Romain Rolland, on apprend que les maladies ne sont pas toujours présentes, mais l'idée d'être malade est ce qui nous fait tomber malades. Alors, d'après les deux articles qu'on vient de lire, je ne suis pas d'accord avec M Gastineau, l'auteur de premier article, parce que même si ces œuvres nous font rigoler, elles ont un élément sérieux caché dedans le comique. C'est la peur d'être malade et les milles préventions qui nous font tomber malades. Je ne veux pas dénoncer les préventions ou la médecine, car il est important et parfois nécessaire de faire attention et prévenir. Les vaccins sont un bon exemple d'une prévention, car ils réduisent l'impact des mauvaises maladies. Par contre, l'excès de préventions, comme nous l'avons lu dans *Knock*, est malsain.

Ces grands écrivains, Romain Rolland, Molière, et Zola, nous montrent les conséquences de la peur et de la manipulation sur les gens. Dans *Le Malade Imaginaire*, Argan l'hypochondriaque pense qu'il est toujours malade, alors qu'il est dépendant de la médecine et il aime les traitements. Mais surtout, il adore l'attention. Cela est un abus de la médecine, car Argan a besoin de la médecine et d'être toujours proche de la mort pour avoir l'attention qu'il veut. Même si c'est un personnage fictif, c'est une situation réelle.

Pareillement, le Docteur Knock arrive à convaincre tout un peuple d'être malade. A cause de sa manipulation et son addiction au contrôle, ou bien sa « méthode, » Knock transforme tout le village et ses habitants d'ailleurs en patients. C'est épouvantable parce que c'est vrai. Comme nous l'avons lu dans le premier article, le moindre symptôme nous fait penser qu'on a le Covid. Donc, même si ces œuvres littéraires sont amusantes, elles transmettent un message sérieux. Il ne faut pas abuser de la médecine. Oui, elles dénoncent la « tyrannie médicale » et « l'empire des médecins, » et elles sont bien sur drôles, mais elles sont aussi vraies et sérieuses. Elles dénoncent aussi le pouvoir des gens qui veulent être malades, soit pour l'attention, soit pour peur et prévention.

La somnolencia

Anna Stein

Un guardia abrió un ojo y buscó a su compañero. No estaba allí, pero el guardia sabía que estaba patrullando los jardines del palacio. Era un hombre raro, su cuate.

Era amable, pero nunca querría apostar con los otros guardias, ni dormir un poquito - ni

siquiera en las noches frías. No tomaba alcohol mientras trabajaban, y podía correr

bastante rápido - algo extraño para un guardia ordinario. Mientras pensaba en su

amigo, él mismo entró a la casa del guardia.

“Había unos hombres sospechosos en el lado izquierdo, pero huyeron cuando yo grité.

Debemos estar alertas durante el baile.”

“De acuerdo. ¿Quiéres sentarte un poco? Trabajas muy duro.” Respondió.

Su compañero sacudió la cabeza.

“Gracias, pero me voy al palacio otra vez. Alguien me podría necesitar.”

Salió, y el guardia sonrió. Ese era un hombre que merecía respeto.

Relatos con cambio de narrador

In Fall 2022, the students from Spanish 310 read a story written by an Argentinean author Julio Cortázar. In this story, a man is obsessed with a fish, the axolot. The writer continually changes the narrator, from fish to man and vice versa, and thus misleads the reader. As a creative activity, the students had to write their own stories, and, like Cortazar, they also built their stories from different perspectives.

Raquel Padilla

El aire estaba dulce. Todo estaba floreciendo. Los pájaros, las mariposas, y las abejas brincaban de flor en flor. Vi una abeja acostada en un girasol. Qué vida que tiene esta abeja. Tiene todo el tiempo del mundo para disfrutar de la vida. Descansa sobre una flor, admirando la delicadeza de los pétalos. Sin mandar mi mano, vi que mis dedos iban para tocar este insecto. Vi el espanto en la abeja con el movimiento de sus alas. Vi la tristeza en mis ojos. Vi el agotamiento en mi cara. Pero me tenía que proteger. La piqué. Le di todo mi cuerpo. Ya no tenía nada más. Me estaba muriendo. Allí acostada, miré hacia arriba y vi el suelo de su pie.

Leesly Fraire

Un día salí a caminar por el parque. Era un día fresco y el viento estaba un poco frío. Vi cómo los árboles de diferentes colores se movían con el viento. Había un árbol con hojas amarillas brillantes y ramas muy largas que me llamó la atención. Me quedé mirándolo por un buen rato admirando qué vivo estaba el árbol y cómo la luz del sol pasaba entre las hojas. Pasaron dos horas cuando de repente me empecé a ver a mi misma parada observando al árbol. Una muchacha fascinada miraba cómo mis ramas se movían con el viento. Ya no me podía mover porque los pies estaban enterrados en la tierra. Vi como mis hojas se caían de mis ramas. Y luego vi como la muchacha empezó a caminar olvidándose de mí y dejándome sola. Me quedé esperando que me visitara otra vez.

Lindsay Hunt

Yo estudio por cuatro horas cada día y nunca quiero. Todos los profesores me dan tanto trabajo y no me importa. Sin embargo, los estudiantes no son las únicas víctimas. Las personas siempre piensan en sí mismos. Los libros de universidad son tristes. Todo el tiempo, miro a estudiantes con estrés y urgencia por aprender y recibir una nota buena. Las caras se ven trágicas y con tanto miedo cerca del libro. Todas las emociones son tristes y esto pesa en el alma de los libros. Los estudiantes son pobres, pero los libros son pobres también.

Sydnee Burke

Estoy celosa del océano. Qué agradable deber ser, ser libre - sin reglas, sin pensamientos. Las olas tienen una mente propia, se están estrellando con su propio ritmo, sin las opiniones de otros. Me pregunto cómo se siente controlar todos tus movimientos, sin la influencia de otros. La sensación de las olas estrellando contra mis pies es la única cosa que está distrayéndome de los ruidos dentro de mi mente, y el olor de la sal llena mi nariz. Pienso que la música de las olas es la última cosa que oigo antes de que las olas me lleven lejos, y me convierta en el mar.

Chinese New Year

Dorothy Neal



Happy Shopping

Luke Painter

乐在购物

我是陆客，我会谈谈我的买东西的习惯。我以前不怎么买东西。可是我到来大学以后，我买很多东西。我买食物，衣服，有的时候买玩具和游戏。

食物来说，我是个挑食者。我只买不辣得食物来说，因为我觉得辣的食物是不好吃，可是我一般喜欢咸的小吃。我最喜欢的小吃是Cheez-Its。我买东西/衣服标准是很多。

衣服来说，我平常最喜欢T恤衫和短裤因为Georgia的天气常常热，不常常太冷。可是，如果天气冷，我会买运动裤和连帽衫。我去购物中心买衣服的时候，我先看价钱。如果价钱太贵，我不会买了。下一个我看样子和颜色。我更喜欢深色和宽松的衣服但是如果颜色浅一点，我也不一定不买。如果衣服的长短不是合适，当然我不买了。说到时髦，我平常不在乎。我不太时髦。衣服是不是名牌我也不在乎。

我常常在Walmart购物，我觉得很方便因为那个商店有很多东西，离学校很近和不太贵。我有的时候在Publix买杂货。

我最近买了我的大学生活日用品。例如，我有空的时候我买了小吃，淋浴用品，和电脑鼠标。购物可能有压力但也很有趣。如果我有多余的钱，我可能会为自己买一个玩具或游戏。玩儿运动和电脑游戏我都喜欢。这些是我的购物倾向。

In this essay, I discuss some of the things I buy most commonly, what qualities determine the kind of things I buy, and where and why I buy them.



My Day

Susan Fong

我的一天

我今天很忙！我七点起床。我早上吃早饭。我今天有三节课。我吃早饭以后，去上科学课和中文课。我一点吃午饭。我吃午饭以后，研习课。我三点一刻跟老师开会，因为我想问几个问题。我四点做功课和等我朋友。我今天晚上六点半和两个朋友一起吃晚饭。我们吃中国菜和喝珍珠奶茶以后，我们去跳舞和唱歌。我十二点才回家。我回家以后，练习汉字和复习中文语法。我明天有一个中文考试。我会很累。我这个周末只想睡觉，吃饭，和买一件新裙子。我二姐五月份大学毕业。

- 冯艳芬 (Susan Fong)

*Written as an assignment for an introductory Chinese course. The essay is a short explanation of what a day-in-my-life may look like. *

vol. 4

trips

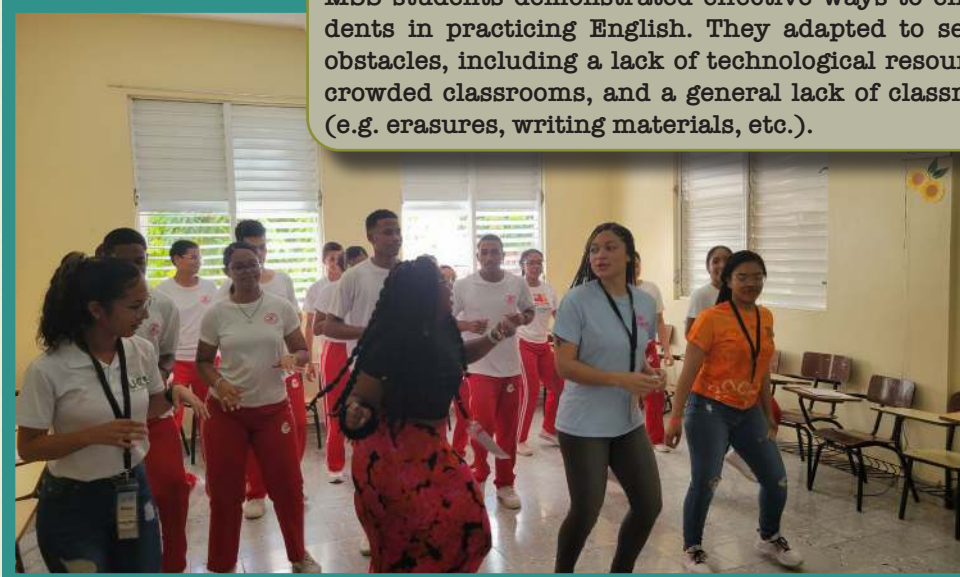
25

Mercer on Mission: Dominican Republic

Summer 2023

- Location: San Pedro de Macorís, Dominican Republic
- Course: Project Implementation in an International Context
- Professor: Dr. José Pino
- Students: 13 Undergraduate Students from MSS, including SPN minors/majors.
- Project: EFL workshop series for 720 students from 10 public and private institutions, including middle and high schools and universities.

MSS students demonstrated effective ways to engage their students in practicing English. They adapted to several teaching obstacles, including a lack of technological resources, small and crowded classrooms, and a general lack of classroom resources (e.g. erasures, writing materials, etc.).



We were invited by the Con Todo el Pie TV program to be interviewed alive during their May 17th transmission to promote EFL learning in all San Pedro de Macorís, highlight the importance of learning English, and share what Mercer University is doing through its MOM program around the world.

The focus was improving their learning of English as a foreign language and their motivation toward learning the language.



MSS students were motivated to teach and do their best to help students, faculty, and staff improve their English language skills.

Study Abroad in Mexico

Spring 2023

Students visiting the UNAM stadium!



A visit to the Museo Nacional de Antropología in Mexico City!



Students at Faro del Norte!

Students visit the famous city of Tenochtitlan!



A regal night at El Palacio de Bellas Artes!

Mercer on Mission: Mexico

Summer 2023

Mercer students and faculty visit Mexico City!



Mercer Student teaching middle school students!



Students help feed the family members of patients at the local hospital!



Students from the Engineering class working in the lab!

Enriching Experiences in Paris: Mercer University Study Abroad Program

Spring 2023

Group photo before departure at Atlanta Airport!



Group photo in front the Bourse du Commerce!

From left to right: Samantha Burrell, Taylor Erickson, Angeleesa Fletcher, Anna McMahon, Taleen Hanna, Claire Spivey, Matthew Thompson, Kennia Kirksey, Sophia Denisar, Tayiah Lockett, Savannah Smith, Seiler Rivers, Garrett Bates, Professor Woo

Part of the group at the top of the Tour Eiffel!



Group statue in front of the Statue of Liberty
(yes, she's in Paris! Didn't you know?)

clubs

Café Bon Ap!

During the academic year 2022-2023, different Café Bon Ap events were held under the supervision of Dr. Katherine Roseau and Alexis Chauchois. The Café Bon Ap is a space for students outside of the classroom to have fun while practicing speaking French.

Students can find information about the French community at mercer on Instagram: @mercerc.french, and also French lessons on the Youtube Channel: The French Bear (@thefrenchbear9373).



A nice afternoon outside of the Connell Student Center!

French Club

Théâtre du Rêve – « Vive la Fontaine »

From March 24 to April 2, an enchanting French show called “Vive la Fontaine” took place at the Théâtre du Rêve in Atlanta. To celebrate this cultural event, the French Club organized an outing for Mercer French students of all levels to attend the performance. Accompanying the group were Dr. Roseau, Dr. Chauchois, and Prof. Woo, a French teacher at Mount de Sales.

Group photo in front of the theatre!



Bons repas à Atlanta!



A sample of the delicious French food!

Mercer Mandarin

Chinese New Year!



Mercer Mandarin Moon Festival!

Spanish Club

¡Lotería Night!



Fruit Stand Fundraiser!



Spring Break in Rome with Latin Club

Spring 2023

- *Location: Rome, Italy*
- *Course: Latin 153S: Latin Studies Abroad*
- *Professors: Dr. Achim Kopp and Dr. Fernando Palacios*



Outside St. Peter's Square on a Wednesday morning, as the square was being set up for the weekly papal audience!



Between two Roman apartment buildings (so-called insulae) in Ostia Antica, the ancient harbor of Rome!



Latin Club members Emma Morris, President Nicole Nelson, Treasurer Hadley Holmes, and Secretary Manuel Flores recently studied abroad in Rome for spring break. Pictured above is the Theater of Marcellus, one of the largest and most important theaters in Rome, which was completed in the late 1st century BCE during the reign of Emperor Augustus and dedicated to his nephew Marcellus.



Pictured above is Dr. Kopp, a professor of foreign languages and literatures, with members of the Mercer Latin Club, Secretary Manuel Flores, President Nicole Nelson, Treasurer Hadley Holmes, and Emma Morris, in front of a famous fresco found in the Villa of the Mysteries in Pompeii. The Villa of the Mysteries, or Villa dei Misteri, is a well-preserved suburban ancient Roman villa on the outskirts of Pompeii in southern Italy and is known for this three-wall continuous fresco, which is usually interpreted as showing the initiation of a bride into a Greco-Roman mystery cult. The scene is linked with Dionysus, god of wine and ecstasy, who appears on the central wall with either his wife, Ariadne, or his mother, Semele.



Latin Club members Emma Morris, President Nicole Nelson, Treasurer Hadley Holmes, and Secretary Manuel Flores stand before the Altar of Augustan Peace, or Ara Pacis Augustae in Latin, in Rome, Italy. The altar was commissioned in 13 BCE to honor the Pax Romana brought by Emperor Augustus with his return to Rome after his victories in Hispania and Gaul.

Spanish Table Talks

During the academic year 2022-2023, different Spanish Table Talk events were held under the leadership of Lea Dulcio, Kaley Woods, Bailey Byrdsong, Zara Ishaque, and Samantha Vaquero-Covarrubias, and the supervision of Mrs. Aranza. The Spanish Table Talk is a space for students outside the classroom to have fun while practicing their linguistic skills in Spanish.

Speed dating to break the ice for Spanish conversations!



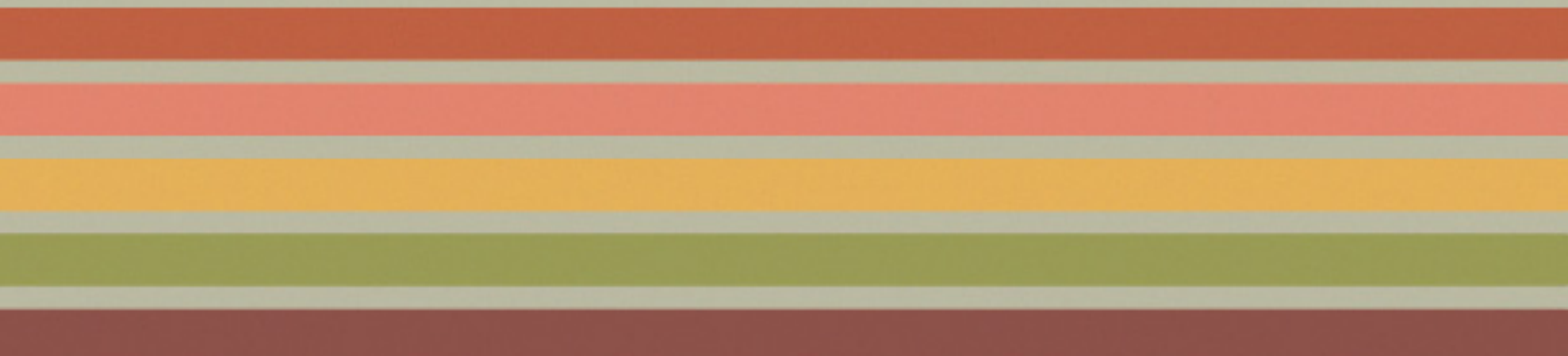
Table talk with native Mercer faculty and staff!



Students playing a vocabulary game in Spanish!



outside the classroom

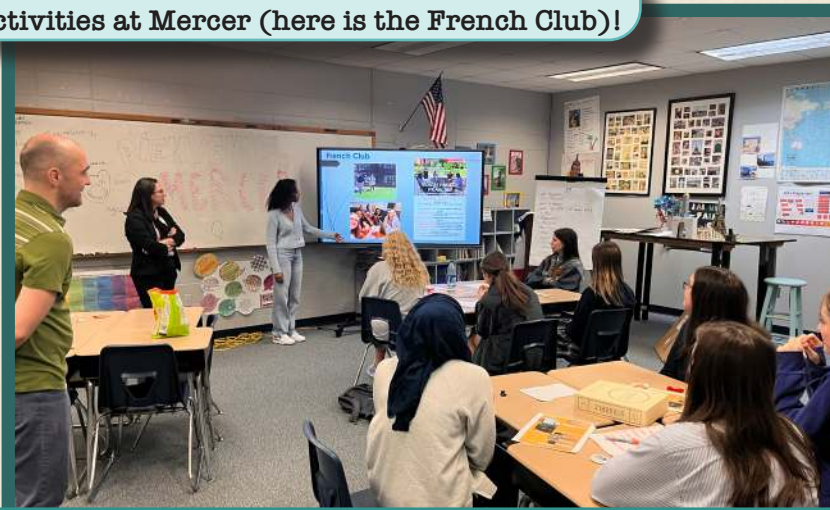


Stratford Academy High School

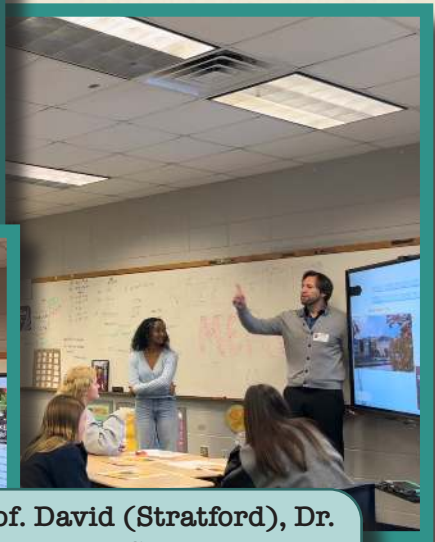
On February 16, 2023, Dr. Roseau and Dr. Chauchois, and Abigail Yemisrach, a former French major student at Mercer University visited Stratford Academy High School in Macon, presented the Mercer French program to three classes taught by Mr. David, a teacher at Stratford Academy who was previously an adjunct at Mercer in the fall of 2021.

We extend our gratitude once again to Stratford Academy, Mr. David, and his students for the warm welcome.

Abigail presenting the French extracurricular activities at Mercer (here is the French Club)!



Prof. David (Stratford), Dr. Roseau, Dr. Chauchois and Abigail discussing the experience of learning French with SHS students.



Hispanic Health Fair 2023

This is the second year Dr. José Pino and his students distributed 100 food bags and 400 diapers to attendees at the Hispanic Health Fair that took place on March 18 from 10 am to 2 pm at St. Peter Claver Church. Mercer students conducted 88 regular health screenings, 56 dental screenings, 32 chiropractic exams, 19 medical exams, and 13 vaccines during the event.

Mercer students in charge of recreational activities!



More than 150 people attended our Hispanic Health Fair!



For the first time ever, we got a Health Mobile Unit at the Fair!

Hispanic Education Fair 2023

On February 18, with the collaboration of Ms. Tracy Martinez from the Admission Office, Mrs. Aranza's Business Spanish class, and Mercer student organizations held the second Hispanic Education Fair to provide workshops and a Bear Bazaar in Spanish to assist Hispanic families with the college application process, financial aid information, and the different academic programs offered at Mercer.

Table Talk leaders pose with Toby!



A representative from GA Futures, Kimberly Lopez, and Toby pose with their Mercer spirit!



Students from Business Spanish and Hispanic organizations volunteered at the 2nd annual Hispanic Education Fair.



Students from Business Spanish providing information about the different academic programs offered at Mercer!

i
n
t
e
r
v
i
e
w
s

“Studying the Dead **LIVING** Language”

Interview by Kate Van Meter

Vox Populi sat down to talk with Manuel Flores (pictured right), a recent Mercer Graduate ('23) with a somewhat uncommon degree. Last May, he graduated from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a degree in both history... and Latin. I set out to find out why he chose such a notable path and what he's gotten out of the program.

It would seem that the “Dead Language” lives, and it's awfully busy bringing studies, people, and cultures together.

Tell me a little bit about yourself. Where are you from? What are your other majors or minors? Do you have any?

I'm originally from Memphis, Tennessee. And I'm currently a senior Latin major with a minor in history. And I'm involved in several of the organizations on campus, some being in Greek Life, others in [separate] organizations. And I currently serve as the Secretary for Latin Club.

What made you choose to major in Latin? Did you start with the major, or did you find it along the way?

I started with the major, mostly because I had already taken three years of Latin in High School. And then, [...] following the Placement Exam, it was Dr. Kopp who reached out to me, offering me a spot in Intermediate Latin 251- completely bypassing Latin 111 and 112. And because of that, I was able to finish the Latin major an entire year early [ultimately taking] 7 out of [the] 8 [...] upper level Latin courses that are offered here.

How have you applied what you've learned in Latin to your everyday life... and [your] other studies [...]

For Great Books, it has most definitely helped, especially in 101 and 202 as those two classes are more focused [on] the Greco-Roman sphere of influence. And then, as more time goes on, every now and then, you see some works that are allusions, whether



mythological or political, towards the Roman Republic.

How do you expect Latin to impact your future? Or, do you expect it to impact your future?

I do expect it to impact my future as I'm currently studying for the LSAT and will, more than likely, speak with Dr. Kopp about becoming a Latin Teacher.

What would you say to a high school student, or even a [college] freshman who is interested in learning another language?

Personally – and this is me being a bit biased here – I highly recommend Latin[;] it may be a Germanic language, [but] that makes it– partially makes it more easy to learn as the phonetics are much simpler. And, a good portion of the English language – at least half of it – is based within the sphere of Latin [...].

Latin is a little bit different. I know that it's similar to Mandarin in this way but, for the most part it's different [from] the other languages that [Mercer offers], in that, we have one professor teaching it. Would you say that this makes Latin students closer or has an effect on how you learned? Did it make you feel more comfortable? How did you respond to that?

It definitely makes me feel comfortable, especially considering that Dr. Kopp is our only full-time professor here, in the sense that I have had him for each and every semester [... of] my time here at Mercer. And for me, I feel like I can go to him for anything. I mean, back– before Covid, during my freshman year, first semester in the Fall, he invited us over to his house to make snickerdoodles and have hot cider. And we also go to the Caf every first day of finals to have lunch following our submission of our term papers.

Do you have any comment to make on those who would dismiss Latin as being a “dead language”?

Well, funny you should ask that because... I mean, one, it's far from being a– what most people would consider a ‘dead language’. I mean, it is a ‘dead language’ in the sense that there are no native speakers anymore; however, there are still plenty of people who speak the language, and– I mean, primarily you see that within the Catholic Church over at the Vatican, and, locally, here at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church. On the last Sunday of every month at 2:00pm, they have a mass entirely in Latin – I highly recommend going.

“Matthew Thompson Reflects on his Experience in Mercer’s Foreign Language Department”

Interview by Gabriel Kopp

Matthew Thompson '23 (pictured right) is a double-major in French and chemical commerce at Mercer University and has plans to work as a Fulbright scholar after graduation from Mercer. Coming into Mercer, Thompson had a few years of French under his belt and was placed in French 252 after taking the language placement exam. I spoke to him in April 2023, and he plans to graduate early, in December 2023.

“I really loved all my time in the language department. I’ll be sad to not be taking French classes here anymore after the fall. But I really valued my whole experience.”

Q: What has been your experience in the foreign language department at Mercer?

A: In the department, it has been really, really great. I think the way it’s broken down is the 100 and 200 [level] classes are sort of just learning the language. So it’s like grammar and conjugating before vocabulary stuff. Then once you kind of get 300 and above, it’s more practical, which I really, really like. We had a whole class that was just French for the professions. So we learned about professional use of the language in different fields that are based on students’ interests, and that was really, really cool. I think the French staff is really amazing, they’re really helpful and really supportive.



Q: So, tell me a little bit about your trip to Paris, France.

A: We actually just went in March for spring break, 2023. It was honestly amazing. We left the Thursday before spring break started and we pretty much saw everything you could hope to see in Paris, all the cultural highlights and the group was really mixed too. I think I might have been the only French major, and there were a couple French minors and really just a mix of all other French students. It was really cool with everyone kind of coming in with different expectations, different backgrounds and experiences. I think it made for a really good trip.

Q: What was a highlight of your trip to Paris?

A: Probably for me, we went to the Musée d’Orsay which houses impressionist artworks and post-impressionist artworks. It has my favorite painting in it so I got to see my favorite painting in person which, in English, is called “The Starry Night Over the Rhône.” It’s a Van Gogh, but it’s a variation he did of the idea of the “Starry Night,” so it’s not like the famous one in the Met, it’s sort of a different take on that.

Q: Have you done any other traveling to francophone countries?

A: I went to France when I was like, 11 years old. So I didn’t know any friends or anything and that was a long time ago, but last year, I went on the Mercer on Mission trip to Rwanda. They’re

a former Belgian colony, so it's also a semi-significant French speaking population there. I was able to, in the work we were doing with the Mercer on Mission program, do some translation work, which was really cool because I got to use those skills practically.

Q: Were you translating for people or were you translating texts?

A: There was a certain amount of teaching involved and just working with people directly and there were times where it was just kind of easier to explain something in French versus English. Like the group leader would say it and then I'd kind of restate it.

Q: How do you use French in your day to day life?

A: In my day to day life, obviously going to class. The whole class is in French so we're only speaking French, projects and everything are in French. Outside of that, just to keep up with it, I like to listen to a lot of French music or watch French TV shows, read French news, articles and stuff like that just for daily exposure.

Q: In your time at Mercer, how have you changed language-wise?

A: I feel like I can look back at every year, honestly not just at Mercer but every year I've studied French from the beginning to now, and really track progress, but especially at Mercer. Obviously when I got here, I was in the 200 level classes so I was still kind of getting down all the tenses and grammar and stuff. Now, like going to Paris last month, I was totally comfortable holding conversations around the country with all kinds of different people and different scenarios and situations and subjects. I think I've become, I don't like to say fluent because I like to leave a little room for air, but definitely conversational and really comfortable in the language. It's also made me want to keep pursuing it beyond the undergraduate level.

Q: What has been your best experience in the foreign language department?

A: Probably a lot of my experiences with Dr. Chauchois. His name's Alexis, we're on, like, a first name basis. We're pretty close, and he and professor Woo are actually married. They've been married for a long time so getting to go to Paris with them was really, really special. And, because they both lived in Paris for a long time, I got to experience a lot of stuff for the first time myself, but also alongside experienced people. They're both just so kind, really nice for the whole trip. They shared a lot of cool, local places and restaurants and stuff we wouldn't have known about otherwise.

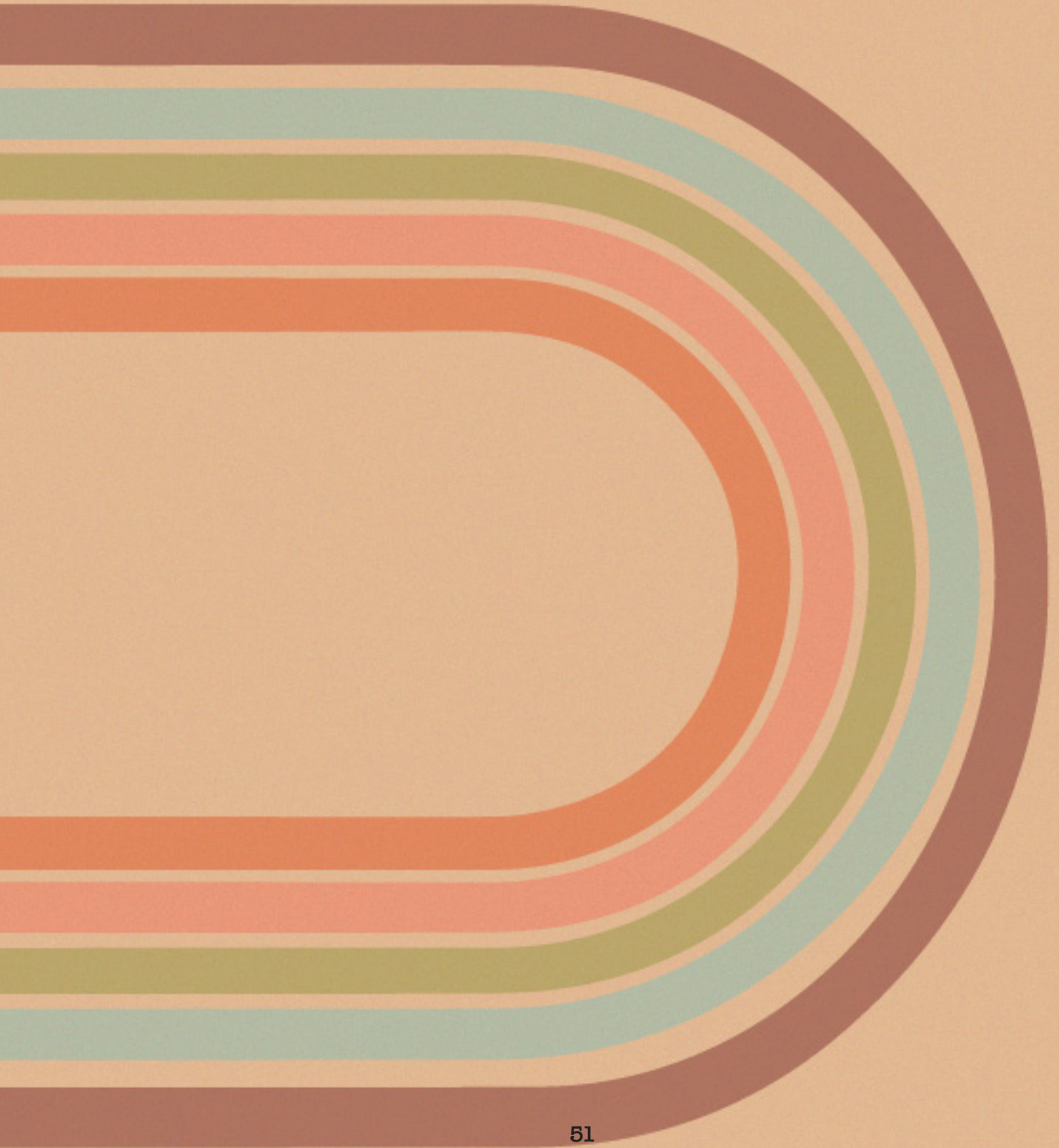
Q: Here at Mercer, students "major in changing the world." How have you changed the world? Or, how do you intend to change it in the future?

A: I think my experiences will allow me to change the world. I don't know. That sounds like, I don't know, high up maybe, in the future. But yeah, I think the combination of my experiences of language and also what I'm doing right now with my internship, which was actually set up by my advisor, my chemical commerce advisor. Mercer has kind of given me all these different opportunities and I hope that through the recycling work and environmentalism, sustainability and all of that to be able to change the world in some way.

Q: What are your closing thoughts on French at Mercer?

A: I really loved all my time in the language department. I'll be sad to not be taking French classes here anymore after the fall. But I really valued my whole experience. I think it's been a very holistic experience with the language. So yeah, very grateful.

faculty corner



“The French Bear”

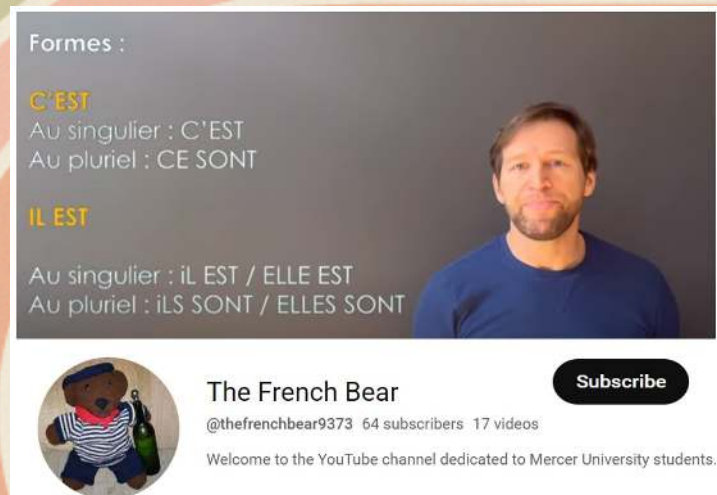
Dr. Alexis L. Chauchois

I am developing a YouTube Channel for French Students. It is called “The French Bear.” I finally thought a YouTube channel was more practical and suitable than a podcast. For a language, visual support is important. For now, we are only at the beginning, but I intend to regularly feed the channel with course supplements, cultural parts, details on pronunciation, etc. It is an excellent tool for students who claim the need to practice French outside the classroom.

Here is the channel address:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBT07OMFYDbN58Vsa_821ew

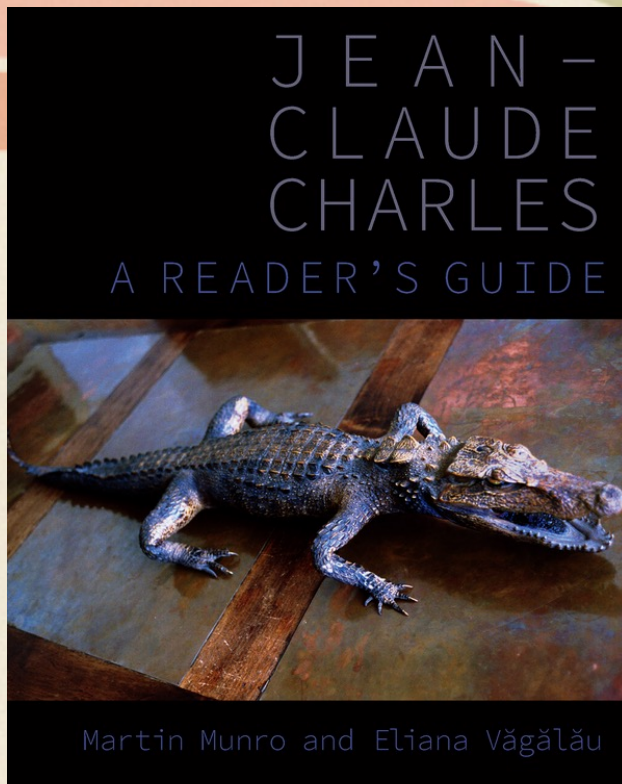
Or scan the following QR Code:



Abstract of Chapter Ten of Jean-Claude Charles

Dr. Alexis L. Chauchois and Gilles Glacet

Jean-Claude Charles's writing does not leave the reader indifferent. From one novel to another, it is always particular, surprising, even confusing. With *Bamboola Bamboche*, published in 1984, it reaches its peak. The narrative follows one intoxicated night in the narrator's life, from midnight to seven in the morning. As a journalist, he investigates the disappearance of an exiled Haitian writer who is probably dead. He also recounts his love for Gina, a young woman involved in planning a revolution. The whole plot seems to take place in a bar, the *Bamboola Bamboche*, on an unnamed Caribbean island, but the narrative.



Faculty Achievements 2022-2023



Photo Opps at Spring 2023
Faculty Awards Night!



Dr. Achim Kopp was awarded the Distinguished Professor Award!



Libertad Aranza with her students!



Libertad Aranza was awarded the Innovations in Teaching Award!

acknowledgements

We want to thank Dean Anita Gustafson and Chairman Jose Pino for their support and encouragement throughout this project. Our gratitude goes to all the students who enthusiastically sent us their stories, drawings, pictures, and poems. Jackie for donating/funding to print the magazine. Finally, we want to thank Olivia Kate Van Meter and Gabriel Kopp for the interviews, and Naluchi Okonkwo for her design of the book.

Clara Mengolini and Libertad Aranza
Vox Populi visionaries and founders

July 2024

staff

Editors:

Clara Mengolini
Libertad Aranza

Contributors:

Olivia Kate Van Meter
Gabriel Kopp
Naluchi Okonkwo

Collaborators:

Erica Hauser
Janhavi Kulkarni
Patrick Burnette
Emma Morris
Kendall Motley
Loren Whitley
Samantha Vaquero-Covarrubias
Zaina Khutliwala
Michael Bowman
Thomas Patrick
Leesly Fraire
Kimberly Lopez
Noelle Senior
Miguel Sanchez-Ruiz
Lauren Talbo
Arlene Perez
Haley Lederer
Atiya Aiyetoro
Dylan Alarcon
Hannah Gray

Arely Cuevas-Flores
Louis de Paz Capobianco
Lauren Inkso
Haven Estabrook
Amelia Page
Kendall Howard
Anayiah Colton
Mikayla Metts
Alana Murray
Maya Webb
Manuel Flores
Harumi Kano Torres
Anna Stein
Raquel Padilla
Lindsey Hunt
Sydney Burke
Dorothy Neal
Luke Painter
Susan Fong

index

Spanish**A. Poetry**

- a. La Ventana Americana, p. 5
- b. El camino hacia mí, p. 6
- c. Al partir en 2023, p. 8

B. Writing

- a. La somnolencia, p. 20
- b. Relatos con cambio de narrador, p. 21

C. Art

- a. Business Flyers, p. 11
- b. Collage inspirado en la película Las aventuras de Juan Planchard, p. 13
- c. Walking Around de Neruda, p. 13
- d. La Alhambra, p. 13
- e. Collage de Flamenco, p. 14
- f. Agarre del miedo, p. 14
- g. El poder del dinero, p. 15
- h. Flowers, p. 15
- i. Ataca, p. 16
- j. Sueño Dorado, p. 16

French**D. Writing**

- a. La Pire Maladie est la Peur, p. 19

Chinese (Mandarin)**E. Writing**

- a. Chinese New Year, p. 22
- b. Happy Shopping, p. 23
- c. My Day, p. 24

F. Art

- a. A Valentine for My Mother, p. 11

Latin**G. Writing**

- a. Galileo Galilei, Sidereus Nuncius, p. 18

H. Art

- a. Virgil's Underworld, p. 10

Outside the Classroom

- I. Stratford Academy High School, p. 43
- J. Hispanic Health Fair 2023, p. 44
- K. Hispanic Educational Fair 2023, p. 45

Clubs

- L. Café Bon Ap, p. 35
- M. French Club, p. 36
- N. Mercer Mandarin, p. 37
- O. Spanish Club, p. 38
- P. Spring Break in Rome with Latin Club Spring 2023, p. 39
- Q. Spanish Table Talks, p. 41

Trips

- R. Mercer on Mission: Dominican Republic, p. 26
- S. Study Abroad in Mexico, p. 28
- T. Mercer on Mission Mexico, p. 30
- U. Paris Study Abroad, p. 32

Interviews

- V. “Studying the Dead Living Language”, p. 47
- W. “Matthew Thompson Reflects on his Experience in Mercer’s Foreign Language Department”, p. 49

Faculty Corner

- X. Dr. Chauchois’ Literary Achievements, p. 52
- Y. Faculty Award and Achievements, p. 54

vol. 4



Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures