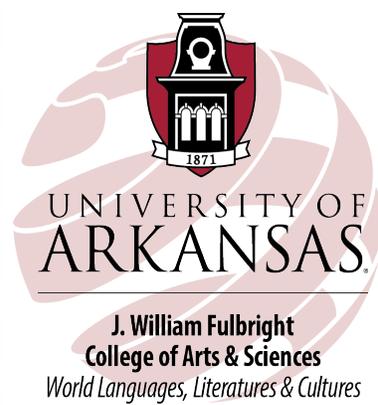


WLLC Spotlight

Early Spring Edition



GILBERT AWARDED EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

LeonNa Gilbert, administrative support specialist II, was recently **awarded Employee of the Quarter**.

She has served in various capacities at the University of Arkansas for approximately 27 years, but did not expect to receive this award. "I was totally surprised and never expected anyone to nominate me. It felt really nice to be recognized," said Gilbert.

Each quarter, five outstanding University of Arkansas employees (classified or non-classified) are nominated and selected for Employee of the Quarter.

Gilbert was nominated for the award by administrative support supervisor, Kathy Lake.

"This award was a long time coming for LeonNa," said Lake. "Her many years of dedicated service to the University has not gone unnoticed."



Gilbert (left) poses for a picture with Chancellor Joseph Steinmetz during the award ceremony.



BORGOGNONI REPRESENTS THE U of A AT THE NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION GALA

Brooke Borgognoni, a journalism major with a concentration in advertising and public relations, was **selected to represent the University of Arkansas at The National Italian American Foundation's 42nd Anniversary Gala in Washington, D.C.**

Borgognoni was one of ten Italian-American student leaders selected to attend a celebration of culture, education and pride.

"I got the chance to meet other Italian Americans that are already in the professional field. I was given the opportunity to engage in intriguing

conversations with them about culture and their current professions,” said Borgognoni.

“I met people who created Italian American podcasts and hosted their own cooking shows.”

The Gala enabled Borgognoni to also learn innovative strategies for promoting the Italian American culture at the University of Arkansas.

“The culture is so important to Arkansas. In fact, Tontitown was founded by Italian Americans,” she added.

Borgognoni spent some of her time at the Gala conversing with other students from various universities about their efforts in promoting Italian-American culture on their campuses.

“I was able to connect with people who have the same passion that I have for the culture,” she added. “I even met with board members from the foundation to discuss plans that I have for promoting Italian-American culture on my campus.”

She plans to host two events at the U of A based on Italian-American culture and one in the local community of Arkansas. The events will be funded by NIAF. According to Borgognoni, her desire to learn more about Italian culture was fueled after in-depth conversations with her parents and grandparents about their heritage.

She feels that learning things about where you are from is important to where you are going. “Studying a second language could benefit anyone,” she said. “I encourage other students to look beyond where they are and try to embrace multiple cultures. It is nearly impossible to visit any city in Northwest Arkansas without meeting people who are from other countries or who speak multiple languages.”

JAPANESE CONVERSATION CLUB ENABLES STUDENTS TO PRACTICE THE LANGUAGE IN A “JUGEMENT FREE” ENVIRONMENT



The Japanese Conversation Club meets on Mondays from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. During the meetings, students engage in various learning activities such as: cooking, games, homework help and a host of other culturally oriented interests.

PORTUGUESE PROGRAM TO HOST GABRIELA WATSON



Filmmaker and activist, Gabriela Watson, will be screening her documentary film titled **“Baobab Flowers,” on February 26 at 6 PM in the Union Theater.**

Watson holds a MFA in Film & Media Arts with an emphasis in Documentary Arts and Ethnographic Practice from Temple University and a BA in Communications: Radio and TV from Faculdade Casper

Libero, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

She was a Fingerlakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF) Fellow and a 2015 Flaherty Seminar Fellow, she was also awarded a Scholarship from Black Women Film Network (BWFN) in Atlanta, GA.

Watson’s film, “Baobab Flowers,” is a personal documentary that blends poetic and observational footage and follows the journey of two high school teachers in very different milieus: Storm Foreman in Philadelphia, United States, and Priscila Dias, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The film has been on the festival circuit and won the Audience Award for Favorite Documentary Short at BlackStar Film Festival 2017.

According to Edvan Brito, assistant professor of Portuguese, the event will provide an opportunity for attendees to reflect on the issues of social and racial inequality in education from a global perspective.

“As we discuss the issues presented in the documentary, it will to be interesting to hear different opinions on how these issues relate to Arkansas,” he added.

ONLINE SPANISH PROGRAM RECEIVES FIFTH QM CERTIFICATION

Hilda Benton, instructor of Spanish, **received the Quality Matters (QM) certification for her Introduction to Literature (SPAN 3113) course.**

Benton said the certification means that she can offer her students a better opportunity to succeed in an online environment.

“By integrating Quality Matters standards we provide the students with different tools to help them perform better and succeed in the class,” she added. “When I make changes in the courses I always look at the course from the student’s perspective.”

In order to meet QM review expectations using the Fifth Edition, 2014 QM Rubric, a course must meet each of the 21 essential standards. In addition, the course must receive a minimum of 84 (out of 99) points.

Benton’s course received 97/99 points; this is the fifth course in the



Department of World Languages that Benton has developed to meet Quality Matters standards. The course was reviewed by a trained Quality Matters Peer Review Team.

“We measure academic progress with specific assessments but Quality Matters helps us by incorporating specific tools and changes in the course that help the students perform better,” said Benton.

CHINESE LANGUAGE LAB ASSISTS THOSE WHO DESIRE TO SHARPEN THEIR SKILLS



The Chinese Language Lab is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students who often used the services agreed that the environment was study-oriented, their questions were answered, their grades were improved and their motivation to learn Chinese was increased.

Visit LANGUAGES.UARK.EDU for more stories and updates.

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