2019-2020 Languages and Literatures Scholarships

The John Sadler Scholarship
Dr. John Sadler, an OSU alumnus, is now a pediatric psychiatrist in Colorado. This scholarship is awarded to a student of foreign languages who has demonstrated academic excellence, especially in the area of language study. The recipients are: Rebecca Dempewolf, Architectural Engineering and Spanish majors; Lisa Kaiser, Chemical Engineering and Spanish majors; Ana Solis Ruiz, German and Spanish majors, French minor.

The Frances Lee & Charles Dutreau Scholarship
This scholarship was endowed by the late Professor Frances Lee and Colonel Charles Dutreau. Professor Dutreau taught Spanish in the Department from 1961-1971. It is given to outstanding students of foreign languages to pursue a study-abroad program. The recipients are: Eden Patton, Political Science major, Spanish minor, who will be studying in Spain in Spring of 2020; Ellie Scheaffer, German and Liberal Studies majors, Russian and Eastern European Studies, Central Asian Studies, and Russian minors, who will be studying in Kazakhstan in Fall of 2019.

The Reusen-Berghmans Memorial Award
Mr. Michael Yeager, an OSU alumnus, who is now working at Waddell and Reed in Kansas City, has named this award for Georges Reusen and Josephine Berghmans, his Belgian "grandparents", the parents of the father of the Belgian family with whom he lived during his study abroad. It is given to a student of French pursuing language study in a French-speaking country. The recipients are: Ashlyn Amador, Global Studies major, French and Philosophy minors; Kelly Hirschbuehler, Hospitality and Tourism Management major, French minor.

The John Schweitzer Memorial Award
The John Schweitzer Memorial Award is given to a junior or senior French major who has demonstrated excellence in the study of that language. It was set up by the family of Prof. Schweitzer, who taught French in the Department from 1959 to 1997 and passed away in 2013. Prof. Schweitzer also served for a number of years as department head. The recipient is: Ayrianna Swanson, Microbiology and French majors, Leadership minor.

The Hilde Wohlert Memorial Award
The award was endowed by former students of Prof. Hilde Wohlert, who taught German in the Department from 1968 to 1997 and passed away in 2005. Prof. Wohlert served for many years as coordinator of the German program. She and her husband Harry also pioneered the German by Satellite program that was televised to students in the public schools; the program still continues under the name German Online. The recipients are: Samantha Homann, English and German majors; Ana Solis Ruiz, German and Spanish majors, French minor.

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I am very pleased to present the Spring 2019 issue of the Department of Languages and Literatures Newsletter. Spring is always a bittersweet time, as we prepare to make several farewells, including to our graduating seniors.

However, the main event, the Scholarship Awards Ceremony, is always a happy time, both for students and faculty. The Department was able to fund 16 scholarships for a total of $16,100. Most of our students use their funds to study abroad. This year, they are going to France, Mexico, Spain, and Kazakhstan. Our Outstanding Senior, Ana Ruiz Solis, is majoring in German and Spanish, with a Minor in French. She will be going to Madrid, Spain to do a Summer Internship in the Translation and Interpretation fields with a Spanish company called The Fun Plan. She will be helping them develop their website in German as well as translating from Spanish to English for them.

We were also very fortunate to fill a tenure-track position in American Sign Language. Taylor Woodall-Greene, who is already teaching beginning-level ASL classes for us, will be joining the Department full time in the fall. We plan to have a profile of Taylor in the Fall edition of the Newsletter.

For those students who wish to pursue language studies over the summer, they will be able to take online classes in German and ASL. Be sure to register soon!

I hope you will enjoy reading about our Department news, particularly what our alumni, the students, and the faculty have been doing this last year!

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Karin Schestokat, Ph.D.
Professor of German & Head

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**The Golconda Foundation Award**

The Directors of the Golconda Foundation offer these awards to outstanding students in upper-division foreign language classes. The Foundation’s representative is Mr. Chris Bolding of Edmond. The recipients are: Shamara Arias, Economics and Spanish majors; Amber Ford, Microbiology major, Japanese minor; Kassandra Gaona, Psychology and Spanish majors; Taylor Godsey, Environmental Science major, English and Japanese minors; Samantha Homann, English and German majors; Griffin Hughes, Biological Science and Spanish majors, Microbiology minor; Rachel Martin, Management Information Systems and Spanish majors; Eden Patton, Political Science major, Spanish minor; Ethan Sample, Strategic Communications major, Spanish minor; Ellie Scheaffer, German and Liberal Studies majors, Russian and Eastern European Studies, Central Asian Studies, and Russian minors; Ana Solis Ruiz, German and Spanish majors, French minor; Ethan Streich, History and Spanish majors.

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**The Outstanding Senior Award**

The Outstanding Senior Award is given to a graduating senior who is a declared major or second major in foreign languages. The recipient must have a strong academic record in language classes at OSU. The ideal candidate will have been an active participant in Departmental functions. The recipient is Ana Solis Ruiz, German and Spanish majors, French minor.
OSU Students Abroad

During Summer 2018, Rachel Martin, a Spanish and MIS major from Stillwater, Oklahoma, studied abroad in Quito, Ecuador, where she also had the opportunity to complete an internship with the Quito city government. For this issue of the Newsletter, we asked her a few questions about her time there.

**How did you hear about the opportunity in Ecuador?**

A representative from API Abroad Programs came to speak to my Advanced Conversation for Spanish class in Fall 2017. I did some research on their website and found a hybrid study-abroad and business internship in Quito for the City Government. This was perfect, as I got to satisfy the need for both proficiency skills and business skills.

**What did you do in your internship?**

I was an intern in the Communications Office for the Culture Department. The office is responsible for communicating cultural events for tourists and citizens of Quito. My specific role was developing a web page for the annual Fiesta de La Luz. This art festival is held in the center of the city and displays works from artists all around the world. Quito first adopted the idea from Lyons, France, which holds a very successful festival of their own each year. The web page I developed can be viewed at: fdl.quitocultura.info.

**What is your advice to students thinking about studying abroad?**

Even though I was able to do well in my Spanish placement, there is nothing that prepares you for becoming truly proficient. This is said in every Spanish classroom, and it is absolutely true. A clear example was my mom coming to visit and not knowing any Spanish. She was open to learning and took a day trip with my Spanish speaking host parents while I was at work. Talk about a language barrier! By the time we left, she and I were able to have basic Spanish conversations about the places she went. Additionally, I encourage students to establish relationships with your professors beyond the classroom. They have great advice and encouraged me the most through the application process.

Spotlight on Independent Study

Not all student interest can be covered in the courses we offer on a regular basis, so at times faculty need to create special offerings to meet those interests through independent study sections. This is a brief report from one such course.

French 4550, a special topics course, was offered this semester as an “Introduction to French Law” by Assistant Professor of French Eric Turcat. Both students, Sarah Oliver and Katie Victor, graduated this semester, and have earned scholarships to their respective law schools: Sarah will be attending the University of Oklahoma, where she has decided to specialize in patent law; Katie will be attending the University of Colorado, where she will pursue her interest in Constitutional law.

About the course, Sarah says: “As an aspiring law student, I’ve truly enjoyed the Introduction to French Law course. I feel like I’ve learned so much more about France’s culture, its history, and its relationship to other European institutions. It’s been a fantastic capstone to my French studies at OSU.”

Katie concurs, by adding: “Because I am going to law school, doing an independent study on French Law intrigued me. It has been an incredible opportunity. This class allowed me to more thoroughly explore my interest in European Law while also giving me the opportunity to learn French law vocabulary. If I decide to pursue a French law degree, this class will have created a strong foundation for me. Additionally, this course has made me really excited for law school and sad to be coming to an end of my time in OSU’s French Department.”

Eric concludes, by noting: “I feel privileged for the opportunity of teaching these two outstanding students one last time before their graduation. Although the subject matter hardly coincided with my own field of specialty, I was more than happy to step outside of my comfort level and add to my own education in the process.”

We are looking for additional pictures for our Newsletter. If you have any you would like to share from your travels abroad, please send them to us at languages@okstate.edu and we may be able to publish them in the Fall Newsletter.
Alumni News:

Michael Hall (Greek) graduated in Spring 2017 with a BA in History and minors in Anthropology and Geography. He is currently working on an MA in Classics at Brandeis University.

Jordan Charlton (Greek) graduated in Spring 2018 with a BA in English and a minor in Greek. He is currently pursuing an MFA in creative writing at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Faculty News:

Perry Gethner (French) completed a third installment of lecture/recitals at the OSU library dealing with the impact of World War I on musicians. These have included performances of selected piano works composed between 1914 and 1920. In addition, he published articles in two journals: *Women in French Studies* and *Papers on French Seventeenth Century Literature*. He also published critical editions of two tragedies by the 17th-century playwright Thomas Corneille: *Laodice reine de Cappadoce* and *La Mort d’Annibal*, as part of a series of his complete plays issued by the Parisian scholarly publishing house Classiques Garnier.


Susana Perea-Fox (Spanish) co-edited and published *Descifrando Latinoamérica: género, violencia y testimonio* with the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos. The book includes one of her articles, “Elena Poniatowska: Parangón, o no, de identidades femeninas en algunas de sus obras testimoniales y de ficción.” In October, she presented “Heridas autoinfringidas o las desgracias de ser rica en algunas novelas de Guadalupe Loeza” at the Asociación de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades. She also served as Chair and organizer of the 21st Century Latin American Literature session, “Open Topic”.


John te Velde (German) had the chapter “Plautdietsch: A remarkable story of language maintenance and change” accepted for publication in *A Closer Look at Dialects*. New York: Nova Science Publishing. In addition, he gave a colloquium presentation for the Friends of OK Linguistics at OSU titled “Plautdietsch: Background, linguistic features and speech samples,” April 26, 2018, and he presented “Plautdietsch 125 Years Later” at the Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference 24, Penn State University, 11–12 May 2018. He was also invited to present “Heritage Germans of Oklahoma: Their contributions past and present” at the German-American Society of Tulsa, 7 October, at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) meeting in Stillwater, 16 October, and at the OLLI meeting in OKC, 23 October.

Christopher Weiner (Spanish) published “The Architecture of Love and the (Meta)Theater of Memory in Calderón’s *El escondido y la tapada.*” *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* 52.2: 667-89.

Donald Wood (Spanish) presented a paper at the 75th-Annual SCMLA Conference in San Antonio, Texas, entitled “Code-Switching as a Crossroads of Culture in Aljamiado-Morisco Texts.” He also submitted an article entitled “Yá Maryam / Ave Maria: Textual Appropriation and Diglossia in Aljamiado-Morisco Marian Texts” for inclusion in a special issue of the online journal *elHumanista* due out during the Spring of 2019.

Student News:

Chase LaSpisa (Russian) presented his work “The Symmetric Advantage: Ballet Type and Facial Attractiveness in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies” at the International Studies Association–Midwest St. Louis in November 2018.

Jacob Burch-Konda (Animal Sciences) has been named Alumni Ambassador for the Critical Language Scholarship for Turkish for the upcoming academic year.

Club News:

The ASL Club hosted Deaf Deaf World on Wednesday, 24 April, with over 215 students attending the event. This event is where the tables are turned: students walk into a world where there are deaf police, judges, doctors, airline reservationists, hotel reservationists, bankers, and anything else you would run into in your daily life. All business is conducted in sign language, or fingerspelling, or lip reading, or mime, or even signed English. This is challenging for the participants, as they are usually not aware or prepared to communicate in these modes. Afterwards the deaf volunteers share their stories. This includes going through a drive-through to order food: because they can’t hear, they drive to the window with the order written out, and some are refused service. In another situation, the police pull you over and are unsure what to do. These are everyday stories in the day of a deaf person. The students really enjoyed it, and they said it was eye-opening for them. The ASL Club plans to host this event again in October.

The French Club is continuing its traditions of playing pétanque and enjoying French cuisine. Members of French Club enjoyed eating macarons in a French café so much that they are considering learning how to make our own! French Club is also excited for upcoming movie night and multicultural night.

The German Club had a great time preparing food, which they sold at the OSU International Bazaar on February 9. The sale, besides creating the opportunity to share German culture, helped them generate some funds for this semester’s activities.

The Japanese Club hosts the Japanese conversational group, Japanese Table, twice a week, practicing and discussing Japanese language and cultures. At the end of the Fall 2018 semester, they hosted “Boumenkai, literally “Forget the Year Party.”
The Spanish Club had another great semester last fall! In addition to a full tertulia with Dr. Creager, Dr. O’Neill, and Dr. Wood every Monday and Thursday, they made their annual trip to Tulsa for the Day of the Dead festival in November and closed it out with a full table at the Vaquero in December.

Sigma Delta Pi

Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of South Carolina, a member of the Association of College Honor Societies, and affiliated with the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. It was founded at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1919. Sigma Delta Pi members have completed at least three credits of Spanish beyond 300-level conversation courses, have at least a 3.0 GPA, have demonstrated interested in things Hispanic, and are of good moral character.

New Society Members: Shamara Arias, Megan Doerneman, Kassandra Gaona, Griffin Hughes, Sergio Mares, Ashley Snelling, Ana Solis Ruiz, and Martha Walter.

Congratulations:

Our Fall 2018 Graduates:
Abigail Buller (French)
Karla Cervantes Arteaga (Spanish)
Zachary Helms (Spanish)
Madison Hutchins (French)
Kelsey Light (Russian)
Caroline Lowery (Spanish)
Lauren Matousek (Spanish)
Brandon Startz (Spanish)