Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Dana Stone is the 2019 Distinguished Alumna from the Department of Languages and Literatures. She graduated from Oklahoma State in 1978 with a double BA in French and German. She was a member of the Kappa Delta sorority and was elected to the Phi Kappa Phi honor society. She was later elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society upon receiving her MD degree from the University of Oklahoma, College of Medicine.

She and her husband Larry got to know each other in their first German class during their freshman year. They worked and travelled throughout Europe after graduation, and before returning to OSU for graduate studies one year later. She eventually chose to study medicine and completed her pre-med requirements at OSU. She started medical school when their children were five and three years old.

She has practiced obstetrics and gynecology at Lakeside Women’s Hospital for more than 20 years. She enjoys her office and surgical practice and still delivers babies. She is a hospital owner and practice partner and has held many hospital leadership positions, including Chief of Staff and Chair of the Board.

Women’s health is her passion, and she has been involved in many organizations to promote women’s reproductive health including Planned Parenthood and her professional organization, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). She currently serves on ACOG’s national board.

She and Larry have been married for 42 years. They enjoy traveling the world and keeping up their language skills, but their favorite time is spent with their son, daughter, and four grandkids.

Scholarship applications are available here: http://languages.okstate.edu/scholarships. The deadline will be February 5th.
From the Department Head

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2019 Fall issue of the Department of Languages and Literatures Newsletter. As mentioned in the Spring issue, we hired a new tenure-track faculty member in American Sign Language, a section that has been growing ever since ASL became part of the Department a few years ago. Taylor Woodall-Greene has been working hard in her new position and has become a valued member of the faculty. As the student demand for classes continued to grow, we also hired Elias Castillo to teach additional entry-level ASL courses.

I am also very happy to announce that we have another scholarship to award to a student for study abroad. The Susan Waid Childs Endowed Scholarship is meant for a student from our department, who has not received a scholarship before and plans to study abroad – outside the USA and Canada – for at least a semester. I would like to thank Dr. Dara Childs for his generosity in endowing this scholarship in his late wife’s name. We will be able to award the scholarship for the first time in Spring 2020.

Dr. Dana Stone, the 2019 Distinguished Alumna of the Department, is featured in this issue of the Newsletter.

Our website – https://www.languages.okstate.edu – has been newly revised and updated, for which I would like to thank our lab assistant, Nick Howland.

As I mentioned a year ago, the Department of Languages and Literatures was assigned space for a new Language Learning Center on the 1st floor of Gundersen. Work on that space is well underway. We hope to have this area up and functional by Fall 2020 at the very latest. It will feature two separate rooms for group study, an array of tables (wired) and chairs in the main area, all moveable and ready to be assembled into different settings for students to use individually or in groups as well as individual lounge chairs to sit back and listen to a podcast or read a book. The space can also be used for lectures or other presentations.

As we are looking forward to great things to come, we don’t want to forget valued faculty members who are now retired. Therefore, for the first time in our Newsletter, we feature one of our Emeriti, Dr. Cida Chase, who is fondly remembered by hundreds of students of Spanish.

Retired Faculty Spotlight

Cida S. Chase taught Spanish at Oklahoma State from 1977 until her retirement in 2005, when she became Professor Emerita of Spanish. However, her teaching career extends over a decade earlier, when she first began teaching in the College of Education at the University of Costa Rica immediately after graduating from the Kansas State Teacher’s College, since renamed Emporia State University. She later returned there to earn an MS degree in Language Education before moving south to the University of Oklahoma. From there she received her MA and PhD in Romance languages with a second field in French literature. She taught briefly at Louisiana Tech University before moving to Stillwater.

Cida particularly valued teaching foreign languages because of the challenges it offered herself and her students, as well as the opportunities it provided for growth. Teaching largely in another language requires a different type of linguistic negotiation between student and teacher than teaching in English because the medium of communication in the classroom should be the foreign language itself. However, teaching mainly in the language being studied provides the opportunity for the students to become proficient in that language.

Cida believes that foreign language students learn to understand and respect people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. In addition, they develop empathy for those people who are trying to become proficient in English. Although teaching Spanish was Cida’s career-long passion, she was also a prolific scholar, authoring a number of articles and other works during her career. She published a pioneer study on the works of the Cuban writer Alejo Carpentier and more than 150 articles dealing with Latin American literature and Hispanic literature written in the United States. Moreover, during her entire career Cida assumed the leadership of several prominent professional organizations and was a territory speaker for the
Oklahoma Humanities Council. She also endeavored to work with foreign language students’ associations and served as an associate faculty adviser in the students’ residence halls.

As part of a new, occasional series to catch up with our retired faculty, we asked her a few questions about her time at OSU.

1. **What were your favorite classes to teach and why?**

   I enjoyed all my foreign language classes, but I preferred those that centered on literature because they provided me with multiple opportunities to share my research with my students.

2. **What advice do you have for students tackling a new language today? For former students trying to keep up with their language studies?**

   I always tell my students that patience and dedication are qualities they need to become proficient in a foreign language. They must learn to seek out opportunities to practice the language with native speakers and endeavor to obtain scholarship funds to study in other countries. During my years at OSU more than fifteen of my students earned scholarships from the Spanish honor society, Sigma Delta Pi, to undertake studies in Spain.

3. **What are your favorite memories about teaching at OSU?**

   I was very happy teaching at OSU and remember how satisfied students were after returning from their studies abroad. I keep in my home several prints of masterpieces that some of my students brought me from el Prado and the Louvre museums.

4. **What are you doing now?**

   I keep in touch with many of my students and colleagues. Moreover, I work with several international foreign language journals. I am on the Editorial Board of *Alba de América*, the journal of the Instituto Literario y Cultural Hispano, an international Hispanic Literary Institute located in UCLA. I am also working with the Revista de la Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española (RANLE, Journal of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language) situated in Washington D.C. In addition, I am a reviewer for the Revista de Filología y Lingüística de la Universidad de Costa Rica (Journal of Philology and Linguistics of the University of Costa Rica).

   I think of the Foreign Language Department at OSU with deep gratitude, and my colleagues in Spanish and French know that if I am available, I am always willing to serve as a substitute teacher in their classes when they are away from campus at professional conferences.

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**New Faculty Spotlight - Taylor Woodall-Greene**

*Can you tell us a little bit about your personal and academic background?*

As far as my personal background, I grew up in a small town in Oklahoma and became interested in American Sign Language (ASL) during my undergraduate years. After I gained my certification in sign language interpreting, I realized that I wanted to continue my education and obtain my Master’s and Ph.D.

*What is your main research interest and what first led you to explore that interest?*

My main research interest involves sign language interpreters and their roles as language facilitators and Deaf advocates. I also research race in education of Deaf students and sign language interpreters. My experiences as an interpreter led me to the research I focus on today.

*How do you tie your research to your teaching?*

I think it is important to make students aware of the real life implications for knowing and using sign language. The Deaf community – the main users of this language – are a distinct and highly misunderstood group of people. The Deaf community have suffered at the hands of hearing people who use and abuse their language and culture for their own gain. I teach responsibility, respect, and awareness in my classes with the hope that students will be inclusive in their future endeavors.

*What is your favorite class to teach and why?*

My favorite class to teach is Ethics for Sign Language Interpreters. I like teaching this course because I get to teach about my other profession and my research at the same time. I also get to challenge students to consider all perspectives of ethical situations and how to take action. During this class, students use their critical thinking skills with the challenges I pose to them. The best part is when the students challenge me in return. Every day I grow as a person because I get to learn so much from my own students’ perspectives.
Alumni News:

Nicholas Carroll (Spanish) graduated from the Department in December 2014. Since then he completed his MA in Spanish from San Diego State University. After obtaining his MA he began working for the Language Acquisition Resource Center (LARC), based out of San Diego, as an Online Instructor (Spanish) for military personnel stationed around the world who wished to acquire Spanish as a second language. Also, during that time, he moved to the San Francisco Bay area where he was also hired as a Foreign Language Instructor (Spanish) for Contra Costa Community College.

Nicholas is currently working at Nevada State College as a Lecturer of Spanish and Program Coordinator. This past year the College was awarded a Hispanic Serving Institute (HSI) Grant, which allows them to create a new Spanish minor program for the upcoming Fall 2020 semester. His duties include designing courses that will fulfill the requirements for the new minor, creating exams for placement and course credit, and creating a new track for heritage speakers, among other things.

Since graduating, Nicholas has also stayed up to date with current teaching methods and practices by attending and presenting at conferences. Some of the topics he has presented include “Communicative Language Teaching Strategies” and “Creating Interactive L2 Activities using Technology.”

Nicholas would like to give special recognition to Dr. Álvarez-Sancho, Dr. O’Neill, Dr. Ekman, and Dr. Creager for their support in helping him reach his goals. He thanks you all for all of your help throughout this journey!

Student News:

Kate Billing (Chinese) attended Fudan University’s International Summer session in Shanghai, China.

Chase Hackney (Russian) and Georgena Ratliff (Russian) attended Indiana University’s Summer Language Workshop to further their study of Russian.

Samantha Homann (German) was named a 2018–2019 CAS Top Ten Senior at the CAS Awards Banquet in April. This summer she was given the opportunity to take 15 high school students to Germany for a month-long cultural exchange sponsored by the German American Partnership Program (GAPP). She had been fortunate enough to participate in the exchange twice during her high school years, and she was invited back as a chaperone when the secondary chaperone retired. The main chaperone, Kerstin Hellwege, a native of Berlin, has been teaching at Byron Nelson High school since the school’s opening in 2009. This was her fifth exchange with Max-Reger Gymnasium in Amberg, Germany.

Samantha’s main roles were helping to plan and facilitate cultural and historical outings and foster relationships between the students and their host families. Some of the day trips included walking to a local farm, sorting and stamping fresh eggs, and making local pastries to be sold at the market the next morning, visiting Grafenwohr military base, and taking bike tours through the countryside. Students attended classes with their host partners on about half of the days; on those days Samantha would organize a homeroom meeting for the American students where they would talk over together what they had been learning, things they had done, and any problems they had encountered.


Chase LaSpisa (Russian) presented “‘Putin Down Protest’: Is Widespread Mobilization Possible in the Shadow of the Oil Curse?”, based on his senior thesis, at the European and Eurasian Undergraduate Research Symposium, hosted by the University of Pittsburgh in April. During the summer, Chase participated in a Research Experience for Undergraduates funded by the National Science Foundation and hosted by University of North Texas. This eight-week program provides undergraduates the opportunity to engage in graduate-level research in civil conflict management. Chase’s project examined resources, political repression, and protest dynamics in non-democracies.

Carson Mulligan (Chinese) won a fellowship to attend the Yenching Academy of Peking University during the 2019–2020 academic year.

Faculty News:

Isabel Álvarez Sancho (Spanish) was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Oviedo, Spain, while on a research sabbatical during AY 2018–2019. She researched both in Oviedo and at the Spanish National Library, Madrid, for two research projects. The first is a monograph about writers who went into exile during the Spanish Civil War (1936–39). 2019 marked the 80th anniversary of the year when the exile started, and the Spanish government organized many events to commemorate it — book presentations, exhibits, lectures — in which she participated. She gave two papers at conferences dedicated exclusively to exile writers. Both conferences will publish books with a selected number of contributions and have asked for her participation. Her second research project analyzes representations of the future in Spanish 21st-century culture. She attended a science fiction congress — the Golem Fest — in Valencia and a seminar by Dr. Germán Labrador, Princeton University, in Madrid. She also published her first article on this topic, “Wounded Iberofuturism: Aesthetics and Restarts in the Science Fiction Movie Eva,”
in a journal managed by the University of Barcelona. In addition, she attended a creative writing class in Spanish, published a short story, and was short listed for a flash fiction contest. She also took a Catalan language class and passed a qualifying exam at the end of the year. While away from campus, she proposed a new class that analyzes Spanish culture through music, which she is teaching this semester. Students listen to Spotify playlists, read relevant literature, and discuss a variety of topics. Her time in Spain gave her the opportunity to interview several musicians, the communications from which she uses in her classes and for her second research project. She also visited two universities in Spain, Padre Ossó in Oviedo and the Centro de Lenguas Modernas in the University of Granada, to explore and reinforce our collaborations with them for study abroad programs.

Perry Gethner (French) stepped down as President of OSU’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa after 7 years. He was the initial president, having been elected just following the approval of the OSU chapter in 2012, and was the chair of four rounds of the application process, dating back to the 1980s. He presented papers at meetings of both of the American societies for 17th-century French studies. He is the sole American member of a team of scholars organizing the first-ever critical edition of the complete works of 17th-century playwright Jean Rotrou, one of the foremost representatives of the literary baroque in France. Volume 13, the final volume in that series, is slated to appear at the end of 2019 and will contain two plays that he edited.

Jonathan Z. Ludwig (Russian) attended Language Advocacy Day in Washington, DC, in February. While there, he met with the staffs of Senators Lankford and Inhofe and Representative Lucas to discuss a number of Congressional bills in support of language teaching and learning. He presented “Nazarbayev at 30: Kazakh Eurasianism and the Creation of Modern Kazakhstan” at the British Association of Slavic and East European Studies in Cambridge, UK, in April and “At the Crossroads of Europe and Asia: Kazakh Eurasianism and the Creation of Modern Eurasia” at the International Convention of Asian Scholars in Leiden, Netherlands, in July. In March he published “Kazakhstan’s Shifting Sands: Nazarbayev’s Legacy and What Follows” with SIA, an Adelaide, Australia-based think tank, for which he serves on the Advisory Board. During the summer he participated in an online symposium on “Harnessing High-Leverage Teaching Practices (HLTPs) in Project-Based Language Learning (PBLL),” sponsored by the National Foreign Language Resource Center, University of Hawaii, Manoa.

Susana Perea-Fox (Spanish) was promoted to full Professor.

Stephanie Rohner (Spanish) received the Barbara S. Mosbacher Fellowship from the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University to conduct research and work with their collections from 15 June to 15 August 2019. The John Carter Brown Library holds the largest collection of books, manuscripts, maps, and other printed materials related to Early Modern Latin America in the country – from the late 15th Century to the 19th Century – and one of the largest collections of Mexican imprints in the world. During her time at the JCB, she worked on her book project entitled El Museo Mexica de Francisco Javier Clavigero (1780–1781) [The Mexica Museum of Francisco Javier Clavigero (1780–1781)], in which she explores the formation of modern ideas about the pre-Columbian past in Latin America by focusing on the efforts of the Jesuit scholar Francisco Javier Clavigero to compile the pre-Columbian history of Mexico and to systematize native epistemologies from his exile in Italy. As part of the fellowship, she gave a talk about her research and findings at the JCB entitled “Antiquarianism, Visual Genealogies, and the Circulation of Native Mexican Knowledge.” While in Providence, she also participated with a presentation in The Second International Conference on Bartolomé de Las Casas at Providence College (15–16 July).

Karín Schestokat (German) is co-author of Denk Mal! Deutsch ohne Grenzen, 3rd ed. Boston: Vista Higher Learning, 2020. Denk Mal! is a textbook for second-year German language study used at more than 100 colleges and universities around the United States. The book describes itself as “a market-leading intermediate German program designed to provide students with an active and rewarding learning experience as they strengthen their language skills and develop their cultural competency. Denk Mal! takes an interactive communicative approach. It focuses on real communication in meaningful contexts to develop and consolidate students’ speaking, listening, readings, and writing skills. Each chapter in the book and on the supersite includes clear, comprehensive grammar explanations followed by thematically and culturally relevant activities, authentic literary selections including poems, short stories and excerpts from novels, cultural reading, authentic short films by award-winning German filmmakers with a wide range of pre- and post-viewing activities and, new in the 3rd edition, a gallery section highlighting notable people from the German-speaking world.”

Christopher Weimer (Spanish) presented “The Shadow of Don Quijote: Walpole, Cervantes, and The Castle of Otranto” at the International Gothic Association Conference, Lewis University, Illinois, in August.


Phi Beta Kappa:

In May 2019 Phi Beta Kappa inducted 31 new members, 11 of whom were majors or minors in the Department of Languages and Literatures: Rebecca L. Dempewolf (Spanish); Victoria B. Denny (French minor); Kaylen A. Gurwell (French minor); Samantha Helena Homann (English and German); Griffin Kennedy Hughes (Biological Science and Spanish); Chase D. LaSpisa (Russian minor); Sarah M. Oliver (French minor); Jacie Shaye Roberts (Philosophy and French); Joshua D. Ross (Mathematics and Spanish); Addison Gwen Van Zandbergen (Geography and Spanish); Katherine R. Victor (Political Science and French). OSU’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa
Congratulations

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Christopher Weimer has been with the Department for twenty

Erik Ekman and Tiffany Glasgow ha

Laurielle Prema has

Katherine

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Jacie

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Our Spring 2019

members meet every Mond

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rebranded itself under the name Chinese

Mandarin, the Conversation Club has

the goal is still to foster conversation in

and speak

international students to come together

for Chinese language learners and Chinese

Club. The main goal was to provide a space

March 2019 as the Chinese Conversation

academic year! The organization began in

is back in full swing for the 2019

– 2020

semester! Some of our ongoing events include monthly Silent Dinners, Silent Coffees, Deaf Game Nights, Deaf Movie Nights, and Club meetings. We also take around 30 of our club members to each home football game and sign the National Anthem and Alma Mater on the field. For Homecoming, our club won 3rd place in the club sign competition and competed for Fan Favorite. We are hosting several events in the remaining weeks of the semester. We are having a Five Guys Fundraiser, doing a canned food drive with OSU called Seasons of Giving, and are having an end-of-the-year member appreciation event at Ultimate Air Trampoline Park in Stillwater. Our membership has increased by 20 members this semester alone, and we have great plans on continuing the expansion of our club.

The Chinese Language Association (CLA) is back in full swing for the 2019–2020 academic year! The organization began in March 2019 as the Chinese Conversation Club. The main goal was to provide a space for Chinese language learners and Chinese international students to come together and speak Chinese outside of class. While the goal is still to foster conversation in Mandarin, the Conversation Club has rebranded itself under the name Chinese Language Association. CLA also has a new approach to meetings this semester: the members meet every Monday evening with a different topic to learn about and guide the discussions. So far, they have explored different ways to practice tones, discussed popular Chinese music, and started learning how to order food in a Chinese restaurant. CLA hopes the organization will continue to grow this semester, and it is making an effort to reach out to potential members across campus and plan fun events for our current members. CLA participated in Sigma Lambda Alpha’s Culture Shock event, 9 October, at the Student Union. At the end of the semester, CLA plans to take a trip to Mandarin Taste in Tulsa to practice ordering a meal in Chinese. CLA hopes that the new approach to practicing Chinese outside the classroom and the plans to put skills to practical use will attract new members to continue the club and support the Chinese program at OSU for years to come.

French Club is off to a great start this semester! At one of their recent meetings, they played Pétanque, which is especially fun as the weather becomes cooler. Every week they learn new words and phrases, practice speaking, and even play French card games. They have lots of exciting events coming up such as going to Taylor’s during French Cuisine week, visiting a French bakery in Tulsa, and even a French Club dedicated to making crêpes and other French pastries!

Club News:

The OSU American Sign Language Club reports that it is doing amazing things this semester! Some of our ongoing events include monthly Silent Dinners, Silent Coffees, Deaf Game Nights, Deaf Movie Nights, and Club meetings. We also take around 30 of our club members to each home football game and sign the National Anthem and Alma Mater on the field. For Homecoming, our club won 3rd place in the club sign competition and competed for Fan Favorite. We are hosting several events in the remaining weeks of the semester. We are having a Five Guys Fundraiser, doing a canned food drive with OSU called Seasons of Giving, and are having an end-of-the-year member appreciation event at Ultimate Air Trampoline Park in Stillwater. Our membership has increased by 20 members this semester alone, and we have great plans on continuing the expansion of our club.

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Congratulations:

Our Spring 2019 Graduates:

Franchesca Alexander (Russian)
Joseph Appelbaum (French)
Mekaila Carey (Spanish)
Jacie Roberts (French)
Chaz Robinson (Spanish)
Alyson Smith (Spanish)
Summer Stolz (Spanish)
Katherine Victor (French)

Laurielle Prema has been with the Department for five years.
Erik Ekman and Tiffany Glasgow have been with the Department for ten years.
Gabriela Marek has been with the Department for fifteen years.
Christopher Weimer has been with the Department for twenty-five years.
Perry Gethner has been with the Department for thirty-five years.

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 Spring Newsletter.

The fall semester was a busy one for the Spanish Club! Our new officers and returning members got to know a number of first-year students in August through all the welcome events on campus, and we celebrated our first tertulia with Drs. Creager, O’Neill, and Wood and FULL tables! In October, we sat down with a number of our majors and minors for a roundtable to hear first-hand accounts of different types of programs abroad, and our movies nights have both taken on serious topics and given us jump scares and suspense: Pájaros de verano takes a critical look at the effect of the war on drugs on indigenous communities in Colombia, while Verónica gave everyone a taste of horror from Spain. As always, we put together a great group to attend the Living Arts Tulsa/Guthrie Green Day of the Dead celebration. We’re looking forward to a busy and active spring as well!

Edited by Dr. Jonathan Z. Ludwig
Formatted by Megan Robinson

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