Welcome from the Council of Student Ambassadors

Since the Fall of 2015, the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures has received the help of a special group of dedicated majors and minors in Foreign Languages.

Members of the FLLCSA are unified by their common love of the study of languages and cultures from around the globe, from the past and the present. This is why we thought it appropriate to dedicate our Newsletter to the benefits of Study Abroad.

Please join us in discovering where some of our students have been last year, where they are about to travel to, and help us share our love of this multifaceted world.
Message from the Chair

It is my great pleasure to invite students, faculty, alumni, donors, and friends of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (FLL) at East Carolina University to peruse the pages of this, our second annual newsletter.

During 2017-2018, FLL Council of Student Ambassadors has created the content of the newsletter and has designed the layout for both print and electronic publication. We tip our hats to this vibrant and talented group of students and the impact they will have on communities here in North Carolina and around the Globe!

Grounded in ECU’s commitment to global impact, we continue to seek innovative ways for students to forge intellectual and social connections with multiple languages. After much preparation, this year marked the beginning of FLL’s Global Living-Learning Community (LLC), a partnership with ECU Housing and Student Life. Thanks largely to the hard work of FLL’s own Dr. Jennifer Valko (Hispanic Studies), incoming students in their first year at ECU interested in global languages and cultures have had the opportunity to live together in a dorm, take selected classes together and participate in a range of extra-curricular activities.

This year students had the opportunity to take the newly launched GLST 1000 class, titled “Introduction to Global Studies,” which was co-taught by Dr. Nicolas Médevielle (French) and Dr. Justin Wilmes (Russian). We are also glad to announce that students interested in more than one language have also begun to enroll in FLL’s new BA concentration in Global Studies!

The FLL department is also very proud to have received approval from the University of North Carolina General Administration to start a new MA degree in Hispanic Studies (MAHS) in Fall 2018. Organized around themes of cultural proficiency, linguistic proficiency, and outreach and engagement, students in this new program will complete 30 graduate credits. This graduate program includes a 9-credit core, with options to complete a thesis or even conduct a supervised community outreach project with one of FLL’s numerous community partners! The MAHS program is structured to allow students to complete the degree in one of two ways: either through traditional delivery (on campus with face-to-face classes), or through Distance Education, an option for those seeking a more flexible schedule.

As always, our students continue to study abroad, a crowning achievement that will pay dividends! If you are a student, please make sure to update us on your travels out of the country and your experiences after graduation, and if you are a non-student reader of this newsletter please consider contributing to the department with a small donation in support of our study abroad, undergraduate and graduate programs!

—Dr. Benjamin Fraser, Chair of Foreign Languages and Literatures

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Council of Student Ambassadors 2017-2018

Editorial Team
Kaitlyn Deguzman, Alison Moller, Chelsie Hargrove, Dr. Irina Swain, Dr. Nicolas Médevielle
President Alison Moller
Vice-President Arden Vessie
Secretary Amanda Curran
Sergeant at Arms Jarrett Bacon

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President Bennet Yeargan
Dulce Garcia, Amanda Curran, Molley McKenzie, Mackenzie Hoover, Jarrett Bacon, Elizabeth Turner

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I want to study abroad! Where do I begin?

• Learn!

• Go to http://piratesabroad.ecu.edu/ and learn about programs and fees.

• Attend information sessions held at the International House to learn about the types of programs. Sessions are every Tuesday and Wednesday at 4 PM during regular semesters.

• Notify! Let your academic advisor know to see if the courses are transferable and what courses you need for your major.

• Research!

• Apply!

• Once you apply, begin applying for scholarships!

• Apply through ECU: https://ecu.academicworks.com
Some students decide not to study abroad due to many reasons: cost of studying abroad, being away from family, missing out on important events, and how it is not relevant to their degree. However there are many reasons why you should study abroad at least once in your college years. Here are some of the advantages to studying abroad.

1. **Travel and see the world!**

One of the main reasons that many people want to travel abroad is to see the world! Whether it’s to see the Eiffel Tower in France, or to try pasta in Italy. By studying abroad, you will be able to have exciting adventures. Be courageous and take up new activities in different countries.

Try new food! Sightsee places you’ve only seen in textbooks and see how different it is to experience them through your own eyes!

2. **Personal development**

By studying abroad, you become more independent as you live a life apart from your family in another country. You will be capable of navigating your way around any new area. In addition, you will be able to become more financially responsible by managing your spending while paying for trip expenses. Pack light to bring back souvenirs for your family on the way there, and try not to pack too much on your way back to escape from paying overweight luggage fees.

3. **Test out your second language!**

If you are going to another country, you have studied or are studying a foreign language to communicate with people there. By using what you’ve learned, you will be able to improve your second language skills.

4. **Increase your chances of getting a job**

Employers love seeing international experiences! It shows your language skills, willingness to take risk and intercultural competence. Stand out from the pool of applicants by studying abroad and taking the extra steps to learn about our diverse world.

5. **Learn about different cultures**

Rather than just learning from class abroad, you will be able to learn outside of class. We learn best through interaction and observation, and being in the country will give you the chance to do just that. You will be constantly surrounded by a new culture! In Japan, visit the traditional festivals! In Germany during Christmas, visit their famous Christmas markets!

---

“One’s destination is never a place but a new way of seeing things.”

-Henry Milletz
Students Reflect on Their Study Abroad Experience

Darrius Jackson talks about his trip to Japan

Interview by Chelsie Hargrove

Q: Why did you choose to go to Japan?

I have previous experience studying abroad in Japan and I was eager to return.

Q: What knowledge did you have of Japanese both before and after traveling to Japan?

Before my first time going, I had very rudimentary knowledge of Japanese. Living there was challenging at first, but it got progressively easier as my language skills improved. Living in Japan gave me firsthand experience living in another culture. I now speak conversational Japanese and can have general conversations with little to no difficulty.

Q: What benefits did you receive from your study abroad?

As I mentioned earlier, I got firsthand experience living with another culture. I also feel that I matured as a person.

Q: How has the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures at ECU shaped your college experience and influenced you?

I participate in “Kaiwa Club” a bi-weekly Japanese language club. This club has given an opportunity to use Japanese in my everyday life. I am very thankful for this opportunity as otherwise I would have no else to speak with in Japanese.

Q: What skills did you learn that can be applied to your day-to-day life?

Because Japan has a higher cost of living than the U.S., I had to really learn how to budget. My ability to cook also improved as it was often cheaper to cook at home rather than go out.

Q: Did any part of your trip have a lasting impact on your life?

My trip abroad helped me to come out of my shell and enjoy being outside of my comfort zone. It also helped to reignite my passion for intercultural communication.
Roylanda Merricks discusses her experience in France

Interview by Alison Moller

Q: What knowledge did you have of France or of French before and after traveling to France?
I had French 1 and 2 before I went on the trip.

Q: Were there any benefits you received from study abroad?
I received cultural awareness and elevated my French. I also learned how to travel proficiently internationally.

Q: How has the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at ECU shaped your college experience?
They have increased the love of foreign languages.

Q: Do you expect to travel again through this department?
Yes, I intend to travel again to France but for longer this time.

Q: What skills did you learn that can be applied to your day-to-day life?
A better understanding of the world around me and being able to think in different ways.

Q: Did any part of the trip have a lasting impact on your life?
The trip as a whole impacted my life by allowing me to believe that traveling the world is something that I can do.

Q: What sort of financial assistance (if any) made this trip possible for you?
Financial aid was my blessing.
Gina Bonini talks about her Trip to Italy

Interview by Alison Moller

Q: What knowledge did you have both before and after traveling to Italy?

Before going to Italy, I knew a little bit of the culture and lifestyle of Italy, since a lot of my family members have been to Italy/are Italian. I knew beforehand that certain clothing items would make me stand out as a tourist (shorts and leggings are an American thing), as well as Italian etiquette and a few basic phrases. After my trip I learned of many cultural differences that I did not expect (no clothes dryers, milk is only to be used in morning coffees, and grocery shopping is a different experience altogether, etc.). I was also able to speak a decent amount of Italian when I left since I took Italian Language classes.

Q: What benefits did you receive from your study abroad?

I’ve learned to be more culturally aware, gained experience of traveling in a foreign country (as well as to other non-english speaking countries), and learned the history of Italy’s artists and cathedrals firsthand.

Q: How has the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures at ECU shaped your college experience and influenced you?

It shaped my college experience by providing Italian language classes that were beneficial to fully understand the Italian culture while studying abroad, which is something I can apply to everyday learning and life.

Q: Do you expect to travel again through the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures here at ECU?

Yes, I hope to travel through this department again.

Q: What skills did you learn that can be applied to your day-to-day life?

Some skills I learned are being more aware of others’ cultures, knowledge of how to fit into a society that may be different from my own, and how to overcome language barriers.

Q: Did any part of your trip have a lasting impact on your life?

The whole trip had a lasting impact on my life, although visiting some of the historical landmarks like the Coliseum and the Pantheon in Rome for example definitely stand out the most.
Samantha Grzybek discusses her Trip to Russia

Q: What knowledge did you have of Russia or of Russian before and after traveling to Russia?

Before traveling to Russia, I had been studying the language, as well as taking Russian culture and history classes for about two years, so I knew a fair amount about Russian language and culture. However, I would definitely say that, after my return from my study abroad experience, my language skills had really improved, especially in terms of listening and speaking, as I lived with a host family who spoke mostly Russian for a month. Additionally, being able to actually visit museums and walk the streets of St. Petersburg everyday was helpful in actually immersing myself in Russian culture.

Q: Were there any benefits you received from study abroad?

From studying abroad, I have learned a lot about Russian culture and ways of life, even making a few acquaintances while abroad. But, I also learned a lot about myself, and how I am able to successfully adapt to different cultures and ways of life.

Q: How has the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at ECU shaped your college experience?

This department has helped to shape my college experience in a very positive way, allowing me to have the opportunity to learn about a variety of different languages and cultures, as well as giving me the opportunity to go abroad and experience this first hand. The department of Foreign Language and Literatures has been, overall, very supportive and encouraging of my interests and studies in foreign languages, and has helped me learn more about myself and my interests as I have progressed throughout my college experience.

Q: Do you expect to travel again through this department?

If I weren't graduating this semester, I definitely would.

Q: What skills did you learn that can be applied to your day-to-day life?

I would say that studying abroad has had a great impact on my Russian language skills. I feel that I am better able to communicate in Russian at an intermediate/advanced level, and my listening skills have greatly improved as well. As I plan to be fluent in Russian one day, this is quite an achievement for me.

Q: Did any part of the trip have a lasting impact on your life?

I would definitely say that studying abroad in Russia has helped me to better learn how to adapt to other cultures and foreign situations, and has helped me to learn how to navigate city transportation on my own, which was something I had a lot of trouble with before studying abroad.

Q: What sort of financial assistance (if any) made this trip possible for you?

I received funds from the Office of Financial Aid, as well as two scholarships; the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Study Abroad Scholarship and the Bennett Study Abroad to Russia Scholarship.
Below are the upcoming Summer 2018 Study Abroad Program opportunities for ECU students led by the faculty of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department. There are programs available in May, June or July. Students will be able to spend up to 30 days in a foreign country while earning credits and exploring the world.

Please visit the ECU FLL website to learn more about different Study Abroad Programs for this Summer 2018 at www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/foreign/studyabroad.cfm
There is more information available about Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs 2018 on the FLL Department website: [www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/foreign/studyabroad.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/foreign/studyabroad.cfm)

There are many more study abroad opportunities at ECU!


We are so grateful to the FLL alumni and friends who help our students with study abroad scholarships! Please consider establishing a scholarship in your name or giving to the Department!

Give to FLL!

[https://tinyurl.com/yagsk8tk](https://tinyurl.com/yagsk8tk)
Foreign Languages and Literatures Department Graduation Ceremony

Front: Constance Baron, back: Brittany Sessom

(from left to right): Brittany Sessom, Toni McKoy, Daniela Garcia Betancour, Constance Baron, and Orly Maldonado

Daniela Garcia Bentacour

(from left to right) Prof. Tatjana Goodman, Dr. Susanne Jones, Orly Maldonado, Dr. Birgit Jensen

Dr. Susanne Jones talks at the Winter commencement ceremony

Brittany Sessom and a friend
Fall 2017 marked the official beginning of East Carolina University’s Global Living-Learning Community, consisting of a tight-knit group of seven first-year students from diverse backgrounds who live in the same residence hall on campus. The students’ interests range from anthropology, biology and health care to Hispanic studies and Japanese culture.

The Global LLC is a joint effort between the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, and ECU’s Division of Campus Living. Global LLC students take classes and workshops together, as well as participate in activities and events that highlight diverse cultural practices, world views and linguistic diversity.

Watch our video about the Community here: https://youtu.be/RndtXZAXtw4
On February 1st, French faculty organized a special Crêpe Day event, la Chandeleur (candle in French), where French students, French club members, international exchange students and Global LLC students learned how to make crêpes and most importantly, taste them. In France, the month of February starts with the celebration of Candlemas – la Chandeleur. The origins of the Chandeleur date back to a pagan feast: celebrating the end of winter, the longer days, and the upcoming crop people were about to plant.
The Foreign Languages and Literatures Advocacy Council

(by left to right): Dr. Ben Fraser, Chair of FLL, and members of the FLL Advocacy Council: Dolly Hathaway, Karen Klaich, Joanna Sayblack, Dr. Fladenmuller (chair), Dr. Charles Fantazzi

The Foreign Languages and Literatures Advocacy Council provides an opportunity for alumni and friends to stay connected with the East Carolina University Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, to further the department’s goals and support its initiatives, and to participate in ensuring its future success.

It provides advocacy, consultation and support for the Department and the continuing development of its current and future undergraduate and graduate programs. Serving as an advocacy group off campus with connections to campus, the Council helps promote a positive image and good relations for the Department with the rest of the University as well as with the region, state and nation. It is particularly attentive to promoting and sustaining connections with the eastern North Carolina region.

The Advocacy Council meets once in the Fall and twice in the Spring of each academic year.

Please contact Dr. Fladenmuller at fladenmullerf@ecu.edu if you would like to be a part of the FLL Advocacy Council!
FLL NEWS: Spring 2018

Dr. Wilmes Gives an Invited Lecture at Davidson College

Dr. Justin Wilmes, Assistant Professor of Russian Studies, Interdisciplinary Program, was invited to Davidson College, a private liberal arts college in Davidson, North Carolina, to give a lecture on April 12th titled "Valery Todorovsky and The Land of the Deaf (1968)."

Dr. Papalas' Publication Receives Feminist Scholarship Award

The Women's Caucus for the Modern Languages selected "Fashion in Intervar France: The Urban Vision of Elsa Schiaparelli," an article by Dr. Marylaura Papalas, Assistant Professor of French, as the winner of the 2017 Florence Howe Award for feminist scholarship in the field of foreign languages. The award, which comes with an honorarium, was announced at the annual Modern Languages Association meeting in New York the first week of January 2018.

Two Hispanic Studies Students Awarded the Fund for Education Abroad Scholarship

Congratulations to Hollie Jones, Nursing and Hispanic Studies, and Eva Maldonado-Sanchez, Communication and Hispanic Studies, who have been awarded a Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) Scholarship for the 2018-2019 cycle! Prof. Rosa López-Cañete has supported Hollie's and Eva's study abroad dreams. The 2018 FEA scholarship winners were selected from a pool of over 2,300 applicants representing approximately 517 colleges and universities across the country.

Students Attend Largest, Oldest French Film Festival in the U.S.

Students in ECU's French Club enriched their knowledge of French culture by attending the 28th annual French Film Festival in Richmond, Virginia, March 23-25. "For years the club has tried to make a trip happen, but it just hadn't worked out," said Julia Beauchamp, president of the ECU French Club. "This was a great opportunity. Rarely do you get a chance to find a Francophone activity around the North Carolina, Virginia area. What a wonderful opportunity it was to have something so significant so close to us."

FLL Classics Students and Faculty Attended NC Classical Association Conference

In March 2018 Classics students Alison Moller, James Patrick Philips, Joshua Spears, alumnus and Latin teacher at the Oakwood School Thomas Taylor, and ECU FLL faculty members John Stevens, Tricia Wilson-Okamura and Lisa Ellison attended North Carolina Classical Association's Spring conference at Wake Forest University.

More news items on our Website! Please Read FLL News about our Outstanding Students here: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/foreign/students.cfm and about our Amazing faculty members here: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/foreign/
FLL Student Awards Banquet
April 2018

Welcome
Dr. Purificación Martínez,
Assistant Chair, FLL
- Dinner -
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Dr. William Downs
Dean, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
Keynote Remarks
Dr. Cecil Staton
Chancellor, ECU

Outstanding Level 2004 Awards
Dr. Smith
Outstanding Minor Awards
Dr. Wilmes
Outstanding Major Awards
Dr. Ford
Fleming Perry Scholarship
Dr. Rush
Anthony J. Papalas Scholarship
Dr. Anthony Papalas
Dina Jensen Award
Dr. Jensen
Marcel Proust Award
Dr. Fladenmuller
French Priority Fund Award
Dr. MaryLaura Papalas
German Priority Fund Award
Dr. Jones
ECU, THCAS Scholarship Recipients
Prof. Wilson-Okamura
Global LLC Members
Dr. Valko
FLL Student Ambassadors
Dr. Médevielle
Research Award Recipients
Dr. Murenina
Faculty Awards
Dr. Fallon
Closing Remarks
Dr. Smith

Outstanding Level 2004 Awards

Ancient Greek
Madison Jones

French
Robert Hunter
Hannah Taylor
Aridna Miramontes
Kara Hall
Thomas Weybrecht

German
Joanna Carter
Chris Durham
Hunter Meffert
Kody Stafford
Katherine Johnson

Japanese
Kaitlyn Deguzman
Angel Stallings

Latin
Teresa Yarbrough

Russian
Yevgeniya Rad

Spanish
Abteen Asgharian
Carson Aldridge
Rene Soto
Madeline Tripp
Phoenix Little

Outstanding Minor

Classical Studies:
Elizabeth Turner

French:
Gina Marie Falk

German:
Trey Goodson

Hispanic Studies:
Dilcia Torres

Russian Studies:
Yevgeniya Rad

Outstanding Major

BA Foreign Languages and Literatures,
French Concentration
Gary Lavenia

BA Foreign Languages and Literatures,
German Concentration
Austin Vaughan-Harris

BA Foreign Languages and Literatures,
Hispanic Studies
Yenssi Williams

BS Hispanic Studies Education
Kelly Zuber

BA Multidisciplinary Studies
Russian Studies
Samantha Grzybek

Fleming Perry Scholarship
Amber Alvarenga
Julia Beauchamp
Emmanuella (Ella) Dogbe-Tsogbe
Kestra James
Evan Kelly
Alana Leonard
Hunter Marshall
Amber Halle
Nobles
Asha Rogers
Kody Stafford

Dina Jensen Award
Bennett Yeargan

Marcel Proust Award
Sadie Crockett

French Priority Fund Award
Julia Beauchamp
Josh Gurganus

German Priority Fund Award
Kody Stafford

The Jim and Pam Mullen Scholarship
Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences Study Abroad Scholarship
Chase Neese

Thomas W. Rivers Foreign Exchange Scholarship
Amber Alvarenga
Julia Beauchamp
Emmanuella (Ella) Dogbe-Tsogbe
Kestra James
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Jailene Aguilar-Valdovinos

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FLL Student Awards Banquet
April 2018

Harold H. Bate Scholarship
Jeff Mullins

GLOBAL LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY
Artemas Brown
Emmanuella (Ella) Dogbe-Tsogbe
Michelle Giron Morales
Claire Goldstone
Genesis Henderson
Maia Slonaker
Kelsey Simpson (RA)
Antonio (Tony) Woods

FLL STUDENT AMBASSADORS (Officers)
Alison Moller
Arden Vessie
Amanda Curran
Jarrett Bacon
Kaitlyn Deguzman
Roylanda Merricks
Michael Gale Davis
Bennett Yeargan

External Scholarships
Elizabeth Rose Lafave
Chase Neese
Jason Port

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Jocelyn Bayles, “Head Start Teachers’ Experiences with Healthy Eating and Physical Activity”

Samantha Grzybek, “The Morphology, Syntax, and Phonetics of Russian Compared with English.”


Alison Moller, “A Computational Analysis of the Hydroacylation of Aldamines in the Presence of a Wilkinson’s Catalyst”


Pranaya Pakala, “Cortical Brain Organids Model the Development of Autism Pathology”


Jason Port, “Russian hybrid warfare and disinformation campaigns.” Mentor: Dr. Justin Wilmes.

Kristen Rozier, “Adapting to Changing Resources: A Petrographic Analysis of Iron I Pottery from Tel Miqne-Ekron”

Teresa Yarbrough, “What’s Cooking in the Beersheba Valley?”
*ECU Research and Creative Activity Achievement Week Award Winners

FACULTY AWARDS
Distinguished Research Award
Dr. Marylaura Papalas

Distinguished Teaching Award (Fixed-Term Faculty)
Dr. Ann Borisoff
Prof. Magalí Krosl

Distinguished Teaching Award (Tenure-Track Faculty)
Dr. Laura Levi Altstaedter

Distinguished Teaching Award (Tenured Faculty)
Dr. Jennifer Valko

Distinguished Service Award (Tenure-Track/Tenured Faculty)
Dr. Debra Rush

Distinguished Service Award (Fixed-Term Faculty)
Prof. Rosa Lopez-Cañete
Dr. Nicolas Médevielle

Thank you to the alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of our department who made this second annual awards banquet possible, especially Dr. Frédéric Fladenmuller, Professor Emeritus, and A. Lynnette Taylor Fladenmuller for their generosity.

Thank you also to the members of our FLL Advocacy Council and our many donors for their gracious support of our students and our educational mission.

Most of all we thank our students and their parents for supporting the study and appreciation of other languages, literatures, and cultures at ECU and in their local communities.
(Left to Right) Gian Paul Giron Morales, Luis Giron, Paola Morales, Sydney Wilder-White, Kelsey Simpson, Martha Omotosho, Emmanuella Dogbe-Tsogbe, Genesis Henderson, Michelle Giron Morales, Dr. Jennifer M. Valko, Claire Goldstone, Antonio Woods

Students and Faculty at the Banquet

Sadie Crockett
Dr. Murenina (Right) announcing the award recipients

(Left to Right) Dr. Knickerbocker, Dean Downs, and Dr. Martinez

Dr. Levi Altstaedter, Kelly Zuber and Gary Lavenia

Jailene Aguilar receiving an award

Students and Faculty at the Banquet
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