Message from the Chair of the Department, Dr. Claudia Vance

Dear Alumni, Current Students, and Friends,

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you for supporting the Department of Foreign Languages. We have had a very successful year thanks to our students, friends, donors, our wonderful administrative assistant, Mrs. Joy Kelly, and our faculty and adjunct faculty members over the last year: Dr. Alejandra Alvarado-Brizuela (Spanish), Dr. Todd Hughes (online Spanish), Dr. Scott Infanger (Spanish), Ms. Rebecca Linam (German), Dr. Keith Lindley (French), and Mr. William Coker (French), Mrs. Linda Cole (American Sign Language), Dr. Todd Hughes (online Spanish), Dr. Scott Infanger (Spanish), Ms. Rebecca Linam (German), Dr. Keith Lindley (French), and Mr. William Coker (French), Mrs. Linda Cole (American Sign Language), Dr. Todd Hughes (online Spanish), Dr. Scott Infanger (Spanish), Ms. Rebecca Linam (German), Dr. Keith Lindley (French), and Mr. William Coker (French), Mrs. Linda Cole (American Sign Language), Dr. Todd Hughes (online Spanish), Dr. Scott Infanger (Spanish), Ms. Rebecca Linam (German), Dr. Keith Lindley (French), and Mr. William Coker (French), Mrs. Linda Cole (American 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Message from the Chair (cont.)

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Endowed Scholarship and
the Marcia Ross Study Abroad Endowed Scholarships for Foreign Languages students and for study abroad participants. Study abroad trips are opportunities of a lifetime for many, and for students, study abroad means financial sacrifice. Thanks to the generosity of donors and to the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Carmen Burkhalter, the Ross Endowment increased again by $10,000 and there was a one-time donation of $3,000 for the Cuba study abroad participant. We are proud to say that more departmental scholarships were given in 2015-2016 than ever before.

In the area of advertising, the department launched new Twitter and Instagram accounts, reached out to students with its campus-wide Welcome Back Picnic, and reached out to alumni with the 2015 edition of our GlobalTalk Newsletter and the 2016 Alumni Survey. The survey was instrumental in updating our alumni database and in providing information for our five-year departmental review. It was a pleasure to reconnect with so many of our many successful alumni during this process!

In the area of faculty members, the department bid a sad farewell to Dr. Keith Lindley, Associate Professor of French (2002-2016), who took a position as Scholar in Residence at the new St. Michael’s Catholic High School in Fairhope, Alabama. In the fall of 2016, the department welcomed Dr. Stephanie Coker, Visiting Assistant Professor of French, to historic Wesleyan Hall. Please see the article regarding Dr. Coker inside to read more about our dynamic new French professor.

Needless to say, the Department continues to spread the word about the value of international education and involvement, and we are happy to answer questions about our programs or about study abroad opportunities. Please look at our website www.una.edu/foreign-languages for more information and updated announcements. Let us stay in touch with us via Facebook (UNA Department of Foreign Languages), Instagram, and Twitter. We want to hear from you!

Sincerely,
Dr. Claudia Polo Vance

“The department continued to lead the way in study abroad with faculty-led and/or sponsored trips to Costa Rica, Cuba, France/England, Peru, and Spain.”
-Dr. Claudia Vance
In keeping with the Department’s tradition of offering high quality study abroad opportunities, Dr. Scott Infanger is returning to Peru once again during the May Intersession of 2017.

Dr. Infanger is teaming up with Dr. Michael Pretes (Geography) to offer a two-week cultural immersion program in Peru from May 15 to May 31*. The program will begin with two days in Lima, where students will have the opportunity to experience the bustling, modern city of Lima, enjoy its world-class cuisine, and witness the convergence of ancient history with the modern world as they visit pre-Inca archaeological sites, colonial Lima, and the modern districts of Miraflores, Barranco, and San Isidro, among others. After Lima, the program will travel south by bus to Paracas, where students will see the Ballestas Islands, sometimes known as “the poor man’s Galapagos” and the abundant marine life on and around the island. We will then travel on to Nazca, where students will be able to see several of the famed Nazca Line geoglyphs before continuing on to Arequipa, Peru’s “White City,” made primarily of white volcanic ash. Arequipa is Peru’s second largest city and was founded during the Spanish colonial era. After exploring the culture and history of Arequipa, we will move on to Puno and Lake Titicaca, where we will visit the floating islands and Taquile Island, home to many of Peru’s Aymara peoples who maintain their traditions and continue to live much in the same way their ancestors did when they took to the lake and the islands for protection over 700 years ago. Our journey will then take us on to Cusco, the “Navel of the World” and the capital of the Inca Empire. While in Cusco, students will see the juxtaposition of ancient and modern as they explore the ruins of many Inca temples, residences, and common places set among a growing modern city of nearly one million inhabitants. Our experience will culminate with a visit to Machupicchu Sanctuary, the “Lost City of the Inca” that was discovered and made famous by Hyrum Bingham, the Yale archaeologist, in 1912.

Although the program is designed for UNA students, space is available for UNA alumni, friends, and others to participate. Approximate program cost is $2800. For more information, contact Dr. Scott Infanger at srinfanger@una.edu. *Dates tentative and subject to change based on airline and accommodation pricing and availability.
Meet Visiting Assistant Professor of French, Dr. Stephanie Coker

Dr. Stephanie L. Coker joined the UNA faculty in 2016 as Visiting Assistant Professor of French after teaching at the University of Mississippi, the University of Kentucky, and Oral Roberts University. With courses focusing on French language, literature, and culture, she also teaches French business, conversation, and cinema. In addition, she has mentored graduate teaching assistants and taught graduate courses on language pedagogy and medieval French literature. In her classes, Coker is passionate about introducing students to the cultures of France and the Francophone world, and she enjoys using conversation, music, film, and literature to develop her students' language proficiency as well as their cross-cultural understanding. She has taught summer courses with the Kentucky Institute for International Studies in Paris, France. Among her favorite teaching experiences is her course "Joan of Arc in Paris" where the class studied Johannic literature while exploring the French capital in search of memorials to Joan.

Her research interests developed while spending a year in France and teaching English at the Université d'Angers. Living in the Loire Valley, she became fascinated with the late-medieval hero, Jeanne d'Arc, and the literary depictions of her story. Dr. Coker has even retraced the Maid's steps by touring Domrémy, Vaucouleurs, Chinon, Poitiers, Orléans, Reims, Paris, and Rouen. Her doctoral research focused on how French authors have retold Jeanne's story throughout the centuries (from the Hundred Years War to post-World War II). Since earning her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, she has given several presentations at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, and her research focus now includes onscreen depictions of the Maid. In fact, her most recent publication examines the American television series Joan of Arcadia to reveal the show's underlying premise as a return to medieval ideals of educating both the mind and spirit (in The Middle Ages on Television: Critical Essays, McFarland, 2015).

At other institutions, Dr. Coker has been recognized for her excellence in teaching and received a mini-grant to develop a new graduate course. At UNA, she serves as the faculty advisor to the French Table (a weekly meeting of French students), and she hopes to lead UNA students abroad to France.
Study Abroad Returns to Spain

Fifteen UNA students and three UNA professors spent Summer Session II at Mester Academy of Spanish in Salamanca, Spain. Foreign Language faculty members Dr. Scott Infanger and Dr. Alejandra Alvarado-Brizuela organized and led the language and culture-based study abroad program. They were accompanied by Dr. Pat Sanders from the Department of Communications. During the month of July, students attended UNA courses taught by Dr. Infanger and Dr. Alvarado-Brizuela while also studying Spanish language and culture at Mester Academy. In addition to their class meetings with their UNA professors, the students had a rigorous schedule of immersion language classes Monday through Friday mornings from 9:30 to 1:00, with history, art, and culture lectures and excursions in the evenings and on weekends.

To further enhance the language and culture immersion of the program, students lived with host families. Some of the cultural excursions that students participated in were: visits to Madrid and the Museo del Prado and Reina Sofía Museum to see artwork by famous Spanish painters such as Diego Velázquez, Francisco Goya, Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí, and others; tours of the city of Segovia with the 2000-year old Roman aqueduct and the Royal Alcázar (castle) where the Catholic Kings Ferdinand and Isabel lived; the medieval town of Ávila, with its iconic wall surrounding the old city and the convent of the

(Continued on page 8)

Study Abroad in Salamanca, Spain (Summer 2017)

From June 30-July 29 students will have the opportunity to live and study in the culturally rich city of Salamanca, Spain, and can earn credits from the Department of Foreign Languages. A limited number of scholarships will be available. For more information contact Dr. Claudia Vance: cpvance@una.edu or Dr. Alejandra Alvarado-Brizuela at alvaradobrizuela@una.edu.
Foreign Languages Alumni Survey

Graduates of the department of Foreign Languages were given the option to take an Alumni Survey over a three-week period in spring of 2016. The department is grateful to the many former students who responded and reconnected with us. These responses gave very favorable conclusions about the effectiveness of our alumni and the department. The over a third of the responses (34%) came from graduates from the 2011-2015 time period, with most of the responses coming from Spanish language graduates.

The conclusion is that the Foreign Languages graduates not only obtained employment quickly, but also in a variety of fields. Of those who did not pursue graduate degrees and went into the job market, 91% say that their degree helped them obtain employment in their field. According to the survey, 58% respondents (all languages) have gone on to pursue graduate degrees in the target language (MA, PhD) as well as in Law and MA in Education EdD degrees. Of those who attended graduate school, 93% felt adequately prepared for graduate study after graduating from the department of Foreign Languages.

A number of graduates who are employed in service fields include professors, attorneys, community college instructors, a technical writer, several airline employees, Social Security personnel, a transitional housing director, foreign military salespeople, marketing professionals, a certified court interpreter, researchers, grant writers, an insurance agent, travel agents, and teachers.

These responses give positive feedback to the department, and show that overall, graduates of the department value the preparation, resources, they received at UNA. In fact, 87% of respondents strongly agree or agree that their degree contributed to the advancement of their career. We are proud of our alumni, and look forward to hearing from more of you in the future. Roar Lions!

Alumni Survey Winner

The department of Foreign Languages is grateful to the many alumni who participated in the Alumni Survey competition this past spring. Your valuable information allows us to keep growing and adapting to changing times. Congratulations to Mr. Paul Orton, alumnus in Spanish, who won the Alumni Survey competition and received a $50 gift card! Paul stated, “UNA, Professor Paul Jones, Dr. Max Gartman, and Dr. Claudia Vance started me out on a lifelong journey in Spanish and languages that has continued to be such a rich asset to me. Thanks!”
Miracle Osborne, a newly-minted 2016 graduate with majors in Spanish and Accounting and with a minor in International Studies, studied abroad in Cuba during her last semester at UNA. Through an agreement between UNA and the University of Alabama and thanks to the financial support of her academic scholarships and to donors to the department, Miracle was able to study at the University of Havana alongside peers from the University of Alabama.

In Cuba, Miracle refined her Spanish skills and completed her Honors Capstone project which was an extensive study of student attitudes toward Cuba-US relations. This project and the experience of living in Cuba for a semester helped her bridge cultural gaps and form strong bonds with students in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean country.

After her experience abroad, Miracle continues to be enthusiastic about traveling and learning about different cultures. At present she is employed as an accountant with Illinois Tool Works Sexton in Decatur, AL. Her long-term goals, however, are to pursue a graduate degree in International Development and then a career with the United Nations.

First Chinese Cohort Graduates in Spanish for Commerce

The fall of 2014 marked the first time that Tianjin Foreign Studies University (Tianjin, China) sent students to study at UNA as part of a 2+2 program agreement that had been in the works for two years. During that fall, eight sophomore students from Tianjin came to finish their last two years of a major in Spanish for Commerce. These wonderful students, Ying Gu (Adelina), Chenyue Guan (Erin), Jinli He (Holiday), Xiao Liu (Vivian), Yuwei Liu (Spica), Hang Song (Summer), Sheng Wang (Amanda), and Zhenying Zhai (Mavis), fit right in and easily connected with local host families, joined the Spanish Club, participated in the Spanish Table, and made lasting friendships with local and international students. These ladies excelled in their classes, and consequently many of them met the requirements for induction into Phi Sigma Iota Foreign Languages Honor Society. Some of these students even studied abroad with UNA and/or completed Spanish internships. All passed the Oral Proficiency Interview and met the criteria for graduation from the department of Foreign Languages. We are proud of this group and wish them many successes in the future! ¡Felicitaciones a todas!
Foreign Languages Alumnus Receives the College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Alumnus Award

On March 15, 2016 Mr. Chris Marshall, founder and CEO of in2aqua, an upscale designer faucet firm (https://in2aqua.com), was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award by the College of Arts and Sciences. Chris earned his B.A. in Commercial French, with a Minor in Commercial German, at UNA in 1992. In 2006 he also completed his M.B.A. (2006) here. He currently resides in Sindelfingen, Germany where his online company is headquartered. “Unquestionably, UNA’s campus experience, professors, other students as well as my time in the international program abroad set me up for a fast track in business,” Chris says. “The school gave me the skill set and confidence needed to go out into the real world of international business.” As a great lover of the outdoors, he also enjoyed UNA’s beautiful Tennessee Valley setting, and could frequently be found trying his luck on the banks of the Tennessee.

Study Abroad Returns to Spain (Cont.)

“Unquestionably, UNA’s campus experience, professors, other students as well as my time in the international program abroad set me up for a fast track in business,” Chris says. “The school gave me the skill set and confidence needed to go out into the real world of international business.”

Carmelite nuns and burial site of Santa Teresa de Jesús; visits to the University of Salamanca, Spain’s oldest university (established 1218,) the Salamanca Cathedrals, the Bullfighting Museum, and other significant cultural and historical sites.

In the midst of all of the work, students also had opportunity to relax and enjoy themselves on other excursions including a day trip to the beach in Aveiro, Portugal, an afternoon of horseback riding, a tour of a Spanish guitar factory, and an evening of go kart racing.

Continuing the tradition of offering quality study abroad options for our students during the summer sessions, Dr. Scott Infanger will be collaborating with Dr. Michael Pretes to lead a program to Peru during the May intersession, and Dr. Alejandra Alvarado-Brizuela will collaborate with Dr. Claudia Vance to take another group to Salamanca in July 2017. Contact the Department of Foreign Languages for more information.
Congratulations to the fall 2015 and spring 2016 Foreign Languages scholarship winners!

Harriet R. King Hufstedler Endowed Scholarship Recipients
- Josh Balta
- Alexandria Buttgereit
- Taylor Grubbs
- Nick Posey

Marcia Ross Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship Recipient
- Todd Erickson

Phi Sigma Iota Induction Ceremony

The Delta Theta chapter of Phi Sigma Iota at the University of North Alabama welcomed 23 new students who are majoring or minoring in either French, German, or Spanish. The ceremony took place on Thursday, November 12, 2015.

Commercial Spanish Student (Cont.)

Being present during an interview with the renowned Colombian singer and seven-time Grammy nominee, Carlos Vives, was, she reported, perhaps the most thrilling event she experienced during her internship. She looks forward to perhaps working with CCTV again in the future.

Latin America. While her main duty was to translate—both in rendering Spanish content into Chinese, and in providing English subtitling—she also gained experience in video creation and editing.
Events:

Fri. Nov. 4 - **Promoting French**: Department of Foreign Languages at **First Friday** - Court Street

Sat. Nov. 5 – **Meeting future French majors**: Department of Foreign Languages at **Preview Day**

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Mon. Nov. 7 – **Pause Café**: Coffee & Conversation at **Woodpecker Café**

Tues. Nov. 8 – **French Study session**

Wed. Nov. 9 – **Allons-y!: Going Abroad** (information session about studying/working abroad)

**La Francophonie**: **Cultures around the World** (student panel)

Thurs. Nov. 10 – **Pétanque Tournament on the Lawn / Fête à la française!** (with food, games, and prizes)
Please Donate to the Department of Foreign Languages!

www.una.edu/foreign-languages/give-online.html

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The Department of Foreign Languages—Your Key to the World.
Direct comments or questions about this newsletter to Dr. Craig Christy: tcchristy@una.edu

Friends of the Department
We truly appreciate your generous contributions to the UNA Foundation designated to the Department of Foreign Languages.
We couldn’t do it without you!
Let us to hear from you! Call us at the Department of Foreign Languages at (256) 765-4390 or visit our website at www.una.edu/foreign-languages. Our alumni are very important to us, and we continually update our contact information on each of you. If you have recently experienced a change in your life, especially a move or a name change, or if you know of alumni who do not receive our newsletter, please let us know! Please stay tuned for more information on our upcoming alumni survey.