Dear Alumni, Current Students, Donors, and Friends,

The department of Foreign Languages is grateful to all of you for another wonderful year of continued growth! I would especially like to recognize Mrs. Joy Kelly, our administrative assistant, for receiving the Arts and Sciences Outstanding Staff Award for 2016-2017. To say that she deserves this award is a huge understatement. Joy is not only a cherished member of our team, but also the glue that holds our department together. We could not continue to prosper without her hard work behind the scenes. Please be sure to congratulate her on this special award when you see her.

Members of our outstanding faculty in the last year include: Dr. Alejandra Alvarado-Brizuela (Spanish), Dr. Rob Banks (Latin), Dr. Craig Christy (German), Dr. Stephanie Coker (French), Mrs. Linda Cole (American Sign Language), Dr. Scott Infanger (Spanish), Ms. Rebecca Linam (German), Mr. William Justin Morgan (online Spanish), and Mr. Michael Reutter (American Sign Language). Special congratulations in 2016-17 go to Dr. Coker for being hired to the tenure-track Assistant Professor of French position, to Dr. Alvarado-Brizuela for earning tenure, and to Dr. Infanger for winning the highest teaching honor on our campus - the Eleanor

(Continued on page 2)

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

Tournées Film Festival 2018

The FACE foundation [French-American Cultural Exchange] aims to bring French cinema to American university campuses and has selected the University of North Alabama to receive a 2017-18 Tournées Film Festival grant. The Department of Foreign Languages will co-host the UNA Tournées Film Festival with the Departments of Communications, English, and History. Planning is underway for the event to be held in January-February 2018, and it will include six films in French (with English subtitles). Admission is free and open to the university and local community. For more information, please contact Dr. Stephanie Coker (scoker1@una.edu).
Message From the Chair (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Thanks to the support from Dr. and Mrs. William Welborn, the department has been able to fund German students and activities, as well as the Oral Proficiency Interview training workshop for faculty members.

In the area of outreach our faculty members are involved with the community and beyond. For example, in the spring the department hosted 40 high school students for Spanish Day where they participated with college students in classes, lectures, lunch, and the Spanish Table. Additionally, the department sponsored French activities and invited the campus to celebrate Mardi Gras, listen to speakers, and try typical French fare. In the fall, faculty members and students participated in Hispanic Heritage Month, German Fest, and French Week.

Faculty members also fostered interest in languages and cultures through activities including the French Table, the German Table, the Spanish Table, the Foreign Languages Club, and the Hispanic Culture Organization. The Hispanic Culture Organization sponsored events open to the public such as Salsa Night, Día del Niño, and Lotería Night. Faculty and students volunteered hundreds of hours of translation and interpreting services to La Clinica Cristiana, the Salvation Army, Florence City Schools, Shoals Hospital, the Lauderdale County Courthouse, and many other local groups.

In the way of curricular innovations, in fall 2017 the department graduated its first graduate students in the new Secondary Education for teachers of Spanish program. After many requests, the department also developed and began offering American Sign Language 101 and 102. Because of demand, two adjuncts taught ASL in the spring of 2017. The department continues to spread the word about the value of communication, international education, and cultural diversity at such venues as Preview Day, Research Day, Career Day, and SOAR.

We invite you to ask questions about our programs or about study abroad opportunities. Please look at our website www.una.edu/foreign-languages for more information and announcements. Stay in touch via Facebook (UNA Department of Foreign Languages), Instagram, and Twitter. We want to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Claudia Polo Vance

---

“A departmental priority is identifying new donors to benefit students studying abroad, and we are proud to say that departmental scholarships continue to grow with donor support.”

-Dr. Claudia Vance
Sixteen UNA students and two UNA professors spent Summer Session II at Mester Academy of Spanish in Salamanca, Spain. Foreign Language faculty members Dr. Alejandra Alvarado-Brizuela and Dr. Claudia Vance organized and led the language and culture-based study abroad program. During the month of July, students attended UNA courses taught by Dr. Alvarado-Brizuela and Dr. Vance 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 weekend excursions to Madrid, including a visit to the Museo del Prado and Reina Sofia Museum to see artwork by famous Spanish painters such as Diego Velázquez, Francisco Goya, Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí, and others. They also visited El Escorial, in the outskirts of Madrid. The group also toured 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 Carmelite nuns and burial site of Santa Teresa de Jesús. Additionally, they visited Bilbao and had the opportunity to explore the city and the well-known Guggenheim Museum. In Salamanca, they visited the University of Salamanca, Spain’s oldest university (established 1218), the Salamanca Cathedrals, the Art Deco 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 at the beach in Bilbao, an afternoon of horseback riding and swimming, a tour of a Spanish guitar factory, and an evening of go kart racing.

From June 29-July 28 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 at cpvance@una.edu or Dr. Scott Infanger at srinfanger@una.edu.
French Major Teaches English in Corsica!

My name is Serena Spurgeon, and I am graduating from UNA this December with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Foreign Languages with a minor in International Studies. This past year, I moved abroad to Corsica, France to teach English as a Second Language with TAPIF (Teaching Assistant Program in France). I worked in elementary schools to help teach kids ages 6-11 ESL and shared with them some cultural aspects and traditions of the United States, and in return, they taught me more about Corsican culture and traditions. For example, one day, I made chocolate chip cookies for the students and faculty of the school, and another day they made for me Canestrelli, I taught them about Thanksgiving, and they explained to me their traditions for La Toussaint and I ate Panu di i Morti with them. I appreciated that they were excited to learn about the traditions of The United States, but also that they helped me to better understand and feel apart of their community as well.

During my time there, I enjoyed being able to explore the region, as Corsica is filled with beautiful mountains, beaches, and nature. However, what gave me the greatest impression was the people who lived there. Everyone was welcoming and proud to talk about their island. I noticed that the Corsican flag would fly often and that products from the region had a great emphasis placed on them and were more readily available than others. I even noticed they had vending machines that sold Corsica-Cola rather than Coca-Cola which I believe represents their love for the region. Nevertheless, I found that despite their strong nationalism for the island, they were open to learning about other cultures. Something that really fascinated me about the region is that many schools there, including the ones in which I taught, are bilingual; they spend half of their day learning the curriculum in French, and the other half learning in Corsican. English, which is their third language, usually starts in the 1st or 2nd grade, and then a fourth language, usually Spanish or Italian, starts in the 6th grade. Also, for several months out of the year, the city would host a film festival with all the films in a certain month being from a specific country, such as Italy or Great Britain.

From this experience, I realized that learning and pursuing interest in other cultures does not depreciate you own. While my students were open to new languages and beliefs, they and the people of the island maintained a strong sense of pride for their heritage and culture. Moving into the future, I hope to be able to continue to meet new people with differing beliefs and backgrounds, as well as being able to portray a positive outlook on my own.
Foreign Languages alumna, Annette Taddeo, was elected September of 2017 as the first Hispanic Democratic woman member of the Florida Senate from the 40th district. Ms. Taddeo built her own business, LanguageSpeak, which provides translations in more than 240 languages, and has been named one of the top 100 small businesses in Florida and one of the top 500 small businesses in the United States. Following her childhood in Colombia, Annette, at age 17, was sent to live with family friends in Huntsville, Alabama, where, thanks to her determination to perfect her then minimal English, she completed her senior year at Grissom High School. After graduating from UNA with a B.A. in Commercial Spanish in 1992, she joined her family in South Miami-Dade to help them in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, which claimed their Saga Bay home. Her strong work ethic put her through school at UNA. She has been active in the Democratic Party in Miami-Dade County (she became chairwoman of the Miami-Dade Democratic Executive Committee in December 2012), and, in 2014, was the nominee for Lieutenant Governor on the ticket with Charlie Crist. She is now married to Dr. Eric Goldstein, a psychologist, and they are the proud parents of 10-year-old Sofia. Read more about Annette’s success story at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annette_Taddeo, https://www.annettetaddeo.com/about-annette/ and https://www.linkedin.com/in/annettetaddeo/.

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
September 15 to October 15

The Department of Foreign Languages celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by inviting the UNA community to join to us for enchiladas, rice, beans, chips, salsa, and cookies. Over 100 people attended the event. September 19th, 2017
German Conversation Table

Now in its fourth year, the German Conversation Table meets every Wednesday on the third floor of Wesleyan Hall to practice German conversation. The group consists of those just beginning to former German majors. From everyday conversation to playing Taboo and Trivial Pursuit in German, participants have the opportunity to practice German in a welcoming environment.

German Fest

On October 19th, 2017, more than 70 students, professors, and native German speakers gathered outside Wesleyan Hall to celebrate the German Department’s first annual German Fest from 3:00 to 4:30. A variety of German-themed food and drinks were available, such as Mezzo Mix, Sauerkraut, Bratwurst, and potato salad. Several students arrived in German-themed costumes to add to the atmosphere. The German Conversation Table was influential in planning the food and decorations during one of its sessions. Many thanks to Rebecca Linam and Joy Kelly for their assistance in this successful event!
In keeping with the Department’s tradition of offering high quality study abroad opportunities, Dr. Alejandra Alvarado-Brizuela is leading a program to Costa Rica during the May Intersession of 2018. The two-week program will offer opportunities for cultural immersion in Costa Rica from May 14 to May 29*. The program will allow students to interact with locals, enjoy authentic cuisine, and experience daily life as Costa Ricans do. The trip will include visits to rural communities, as well as to visiting natural and historical sites in Cartago and San José such as museums, market places, botanical gardens, and a volcano. We will also travel to the pacific coast, where students will be able to experience Costa Rica’s famous ecotourism through hiking and zip lining in the rainforest, as well as enjoying some time at the beach. This two-week program will allow students to see the juxtaposition of rural and urban areas as they compare and contrast daily life in remote communities to life in well-known tourist destinations. Our experience will also include a visit to a coffee plantation and processing plant, to better understand the importance of the “grano de oro” (the gold grain), coffee, to Costa Rica’s history and economy. Although the program is designed for UNA students, space is available for UNA alumni, friends, and others to participate. Approximate program cost is $2900. For more information, contact Dr. Alvarado-Brizuela at aalvaradobrizuela@una.edu. *Dates tentative and subject to change based on airline and accommodation pricing and availability.
High School Students Visit Wesleyan Hall During French Week

Eighteen students from Florence High School visited the Department of Foreign Languages for “French Day at UNA” on November 6, 2017. Escorted by their French teacher, Jeanie Hughes, these third-year and fourth-year French students spent the day with UNA French faculty member, Dr. Stephanie Coker, to observe French 101 and 201 classes. Additionally they joined the Table française for games and conversation, and met with representatives from UNA Admissions and the College of Arts & Sciences. Lunch was provided by the Department of Foreign Languages.

Paris Trip 2018

The Department of Foreign Languages and the Department of Art are collaborating to offer a study abroad trip to Paris, France (led by Dr. Stephanie Coker and Mr. Robert Rausch). In June 2018, students will see the French capital through a literal and figurative lens as they take courses in photography and French culture. Students will experience Parisian living and visit historic sites including Notre Dame, the Louvre, and the Château de Versailles.
TEDx Talk by Coddy MacNeill

Since graduating from UNA in 2016, life has been a bit of a whirlwind. Following graduation, I was fortunate enough to move to Boston, where I interned at Harvard University working with high school students who came to participate in a pre-college program. Following several months, in that role, I moved to Nebraska to begin working on my Master’s degree in Higher Education Administration. I am now a semester away from completing my degree and am so grateful for the opportunities that have become available to me - both professionally and personally. Since relocating to Nebraska, I have been able to make connections with various people, allowing me to work with at risk students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as well as being able to intern with the University of Toronto where I was able to conduct research pertaining to the student experience within the school’s residence halls. Moreover, I have been able to pursue my real passion – traveling and trying new things. Since relocating, I have been lucky enough to do some incredible things, including: being able to procure an avenue for publishing with my first book expected to publish next year, being able to see most of the Midwest, and being invited to give a TEDx Talk which is titled “Living Fearlessly” and speaks to the idea that adventure can be found anywhere – not just by those who have the means to quit their jobs and travel; living life adventurously has everything to do with a person’s mindset and very little to do with their actual circumstances.

Coddy MacNeill
He/Him/His
Tutor Coordinator for Student Support Services
University of Nebraska – Lincoln
B.A. Foreign Languages, Concentration in French, UNA 2016
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7VG9NSQsoUI

Phi Sigma Iota Induction Ceremony

The Delta Theta chapter of Phi Sigma Iota at the University of North Alabama welcomed 24 new students who are majoring or minoring in either French, German, or Spanish. The ceremony took place on Monday, April 17, 2017.

The UNA French Club and the Dept. of Foreign Languages held the 2nd annual National French Week on campus to celebrate French and Francophone cultures around the world. The festivities included:

- French conversation table,
- Paris 2018 trip interest meeting,
- UNA French Club meeting and officer elections,
- information session on semester/year in France on the Magellan Exchange, and a
- French-themed party and pétanque tournament on the lawn.

Students, faculty, and staff in attendance enjoyed games, food, fun, and prizes! Vive la Francophonie!

Congratulations to Dr. Scott Infanger for winning the 2017 Eleanor Gaunder Phi Kappa Phi Excellence in Teaching Award!
Congratulations to the 2017-2018 Foreign Languages Scholarship Winners!

Harriet R. King Hufstedler Endowed Scholarship Recipients
- Alexander Gould
- Jenna Thigpen
- Abigail Worley
- Hayden Wilkes

Marcia Ross Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship Recipient
- Alexandria Buttgereit

Please Donate to the Department of Foreign Languages!

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

What Your Gifts Can Provide

Students
- Scholarships
- Study Abroad
- Conference Travel

Faculty
- Research Assistance
- Conferences

Community Engagement
- Early College Activities
- Lecture Sponsorships

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.