Dear alumni and friends,

Spring marked an especially joyous time in the life of our Department. First, we were honored to recognize over forty of our students for their academic excellence in the study of other languages and cultures at our third annual awards banquet on campus and to share that success with their families and friends. As you will note from the Student News section on page 3, our students are among the best in our state and nation, and any student thinking of studying with us will be in excellent company. Second, we celebrated the graduation of thirty students in early May, with degrees or degree concentrations in French, German, Hispanic Studies, Russian Studies, Classical Civilization, and Classical Studies.

We will miss our graduates here on campus, but we look forward to the possibility of their visit. Speaking of staying in touch, we hope you will send us your alumni news and that you will consider also becoming a supporter of our educational mission. Our contact information is on the last page and, if there is anything we can do to help you (re)connect with us and the Pirate Nation, please ask.

Dr. Eduardo Leorri, Interim Chair, Spring 2019
Faculty and Staff News

Our faculty and staff have been busy this year. Here are a few highlights.

Dr. Birgit Jensen has been awarded an ECU Teaching Grant to redesign a class on German Composition and Advanced Grammar to focus on the development of students’ cross-cultural thinking skills. Jensen’s proposal was one of just six selected for funding.

Drs. Paul Fallon and Justin Wilmes have been awarded summer research grants from ECU’s Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences (THCAS). Dr. Marylaura Papalas received a THCAS Research and Creative Activity Award. Dr. Fallon’s research focuses on notions of community along the U.S.-Mexico border, while Dr. Papalas is investigating how Elsa Schiaparelli and her network of artist friends shaped ideas about gender and female identity in France. Dr. Wilmes is exploring documentary cinema as a genre and medium for discussing and debating truth in contemporary Russia.

Dr. Laura Levi Altstaedter has been named a 2018-2019 Scholar Teacher by ECU’s Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Dale Knickerbocker was awarded the Linda E. McMahon Distinguished Professorship in Foreign Languages for the next two years and he has been elected president of the International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts, an organization of over 500 scholars, writers, and publishers of science fiction, fantasy, and horror from 27 countries.

Visit FLL department online at foreign.ecu.edu and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Congratulations to Dr. Irina Swain (right) for being recognized with the 2019 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Junior Staff Award. Swain also received an NEH grant to attend a workshop on Digital Humanities in Atlanta in January.

On April 3, FLL hosted Katherine L. Clements, 2018-2019 Fulbright Scholar at Tulane University, for a discussion of the value and craft of historical fiction. Dr. Eileen Angelini, Whichard Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities, complemented the talk with a presentation on the plight of Franco-Americans in early 20th-century New England.

Did you know? This year 51 manuscripts (articles, book chapters, books) were submitted, are in press, or were published by FLL faculty. This includes two published books and one book submission. Additionally, FLL faculty submitted three grants as primary investigators (PI) for a total of $567,283 and five grants were submitted as co-PIs for a total of $233,131.

A great semester of faculty and staff accomplishments!
Student News
Six students (Chase Neese, Katie Collins, Elizabeth LaFave, Jason Port, Christa Gordon and Brian Thaxton) presented their original research projects to the campus community on April 16 in Joyner Library. Their topics included Russian hybrid warfare and hacking; religious symbolism in the works of Fyodor Dostoevsky; the cinematic techniques of Dziga Vertov; U.S. - Russian nuclear arms agreements; the figure of Konstantin Tsiolkovsky within the humanities; as well as modern theatrical adaptations of Chekhov and Shakespeare.

ECU has named Alison Moller, Classical Studies, President of the FLL Ambassadors, as the 2019 winner of the Michael F. Bassman Honors Thesis Award, which recognizes excellence in research and writing by a student in the Honors College.

Jon Cockerham, French major, has received The John Philip Couch Scholarship to study in France. Supported by the North Carolina chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French, the scholarship is awarded to a student in the UNC system based on academic credentials, recommendations, and writing ability in French.

Ruby Estabane has received a nationally competitive scholarship from the Fund for Education Abroad to study at Ewha Women’s University in South Korea.

MA students Francisco Corichi Jiménez-Garrido and Mariela Ychante Huerta both presented talks during Research and Creative Achievement Week (RCAW) on campus in April. Jiménez-Garrido spoke about the need for Spanish medical interpreter programs and Ychante-Huerta discussed the importance of regarding language as culture in the second-language classroom.

FLL Graduates 2019

BA Classical Civilization
Bryton Abrahams          Spencer R. Bulluck
James P. Philips

BA Classical Studies
Alison Moller

Graduate Certificate in Hispanic Studies
Mariela Ychante-Huerta

BA Foreign Languages and Literatures: French
Julia Beauchamp            Roylanda D. Merricks
Jon Cockerham             Oumar Sow
Amanda Curran

BA Foreign Languages and Literatures: German
Richard A. Bjork           Kestra J. James
Jeffrey W. Mullins         Audrey J. Smith

BA Foreign Languages and Literatures: Hispanic Studies
Karis A. Adams             Amber N. Alvarenga
Bina H. Amin               Perla X. Bravo
Brentley L. Byrd           Juan Chavez
Megan A. Denney            Nijsha L. Johnson
Alana F. Leonard           Eva S. Maldonado-Sanchez
Geuly Orozco-Lugo          Lauren N. Quinn
Felix Quiroz               Simon A. Vuchev

BA Multidisciplinary Studies: Russian Studies
Christa H. Gordon          Jason M. Port
Brian A. Thaxton

FLL Graduates 2019!
Congratulations!
Please consider contributing to our newly designated Fund for Foreign Languages and Literatures (Fund for FLL) today.
The Fund for FLL will help us achieve our top three goals for 2019. In particular, your generosity will allow us to

• increase the number of scholarships given to FLL students to study abroad;
• enhance our students’ education by allowing us to host events related to the study of other languages and cultures on campus;
• expand outreach initiatives to prospective high school, transfer, and veteran students as they transition to study at ECU.

You can make your tax-deductible contribution by:

• credit card: go.ecu.edu/cb4bdeb5
• check (made out to ECU Foundation, Inc., with Foreign Languages and Literatures in the memo line), and mailed to:

  Dr. David Smith, Outreach Coordinator
  Mail Stop 556, 3324 Bate Bldg.
  East Carolina University
  Greenville NC 27858-4353

  Questions/Suggestions: 252-328-5524

I am pleased to help with a tax-deductible gift of

____   $25 Friend of FLL
____   $50 Supporter of FLL
____   $100 Sustainer of FLL
____   $500 FLL Fund Builder
____   $1,000 FLL Sponsor
____   $ (other - every amount counts!)

My employer matches charitable contributions, and my matching gift form is enclosed.

Name: ______________________________
Date: ______________________________
Address: ____________________________
City, State, Zip: ______________________
Telephone: __________________________
Email: ______________________________

On behalf of all of us in ECU’s Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, thank you for your generous support of our students!