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 first 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.

“Never hesitate to go far away, beyond all seas, all frontiers, all countries, all beliefs.”

Amin Maalouf, Leo Africanus
It is with great pleasure that the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (FLL) at East Carolina University launches its first newsletter. Conceived as a vehicle to showcase the success of our students, the commitment of our faculty and the impact of our academic programs, this newsletter would not have been possible without the support and planning of FLL’s Council of Student Ambassadors. I particularly want to single out Alison Moller for her remarkable dedication and leadership of this compelling final product.

The efforts of Dr. Nicolas Médevielle and Dr. Irina Swain were also instrumental in making the idea for this newsletter a reality.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, FLL faculty have been hard at work on a number of new initiatives. A departmental partnership with Housing and Student Life at ECU has led to the launch, in fall 2017, of a Global Living Learning Community. Incoming students will now have the opportunity to live in the same dorm as peers who are also interested in global languages and cultures. Once admitted into the program, these students will take selected courses together and will engage in extra-curricular activities led by FLL’s Dr. Jennifer Valko.

Also brand-new is the department’s new Global Studies major concentration under the BA in Foreign Languages and Literatures, overseen by Dr. Purificación Martínez. This program allows students to combine interests in two languages, supplemented by the full range of courses offered by the department, and includes a new introductory class and capstone seminar. Dr. Dale Knickerbocker has been leading plans for the development of a new graduate degree in the department—the MA in Hispanic Studies. And Dr. David Smith organized an FLL student awards banquet for the first time in the department’s history!

—Dr. Benjamin Fraser is Chair of FLL (contact: fraserb14@ecu.edu)
# FLL Newsletter: Spring 2017

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## Editorial Team:

Alison Moller, CSA FLL  
Dr. Irina Swain  
Dr. Nicolas Médevielle  
Prof. Tricia Wilson-Okamura
Students Reflect on Their Study Abroad Experience

Hunter Davis talks about her Trip to Strasbourg, France  
Interview by Alison Moller

Hunter Davis is a sophomore undergraduate student at ECU, majoring in Psychology and Art

Q: Why did you choose to go to Strasbourg?
A: I chose Strasbourg because it seemed like the most appropriate place for me to go as my first study abroad experience. It was only a month-long program and it was in a francophone country, so it was ideal for me.
Q: What knowledge did you have of French both before and after traveling to Strasbourg?
A: I could understand written French and could speak it somewhat well, but really struggled with understanding it when it was spoken to me. I knew a little bit about Strasbourg as a city due to my French classes, but otherwise didn't really know what to expect about going abroad.

Q: What benefits did you receive from your study abroad?
A: I got to experience a very different culture than mine, which is always a wonderful experience. Seeing how other people live their lives and seeing how it compares to our own is a very interesting and important experience.

Q: How has the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures at ECU shaped your college experience and influenced you?
A: The Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures at ECU has helped me gain a stronger appreciation for French culture. I always enjoyed French in high school, but experiencing it abroad in college was absolutely incredible. They've made me want to become fluent in French, and I plan to do so.

Q: What skills did you learn that can be applied to your day to day life?
A: Learning how to get around in a new location is always a struggle, whether people speak the same language as you or not. So I think that was a big skill, just simply learning how to be independent in a new and unusual environment. And also learning how to deal with situations that are outside of my comfort zone.

Q: Did any part of your trip have a lasting impact on your life?
A: I was in Strasbourg when there was the terrorist attack in Nice. I'll never forget the atmosphere of the city that next day. Seeing how people reacted to the terrorist attack and how we as American students had reacted as well was indescribable. There were many moments that made a lasting impact, but that one really stands out.

Map of France with Strasbourg in the upper right
Lucas Woodall discusses his Trip to Tokyo, Japan  Interview by Alison Moller

Majoring in Asian Studies, Lucas (second from left) is a senior undergraduate student

Q: What knowledge did you have both before and after traveling to Japan?
A: I had a basic textbook understanding of Japanese up to what I guess would be an elementary school student. By the time I came back, I feel like I had more understanding of the language in the upper middle school area.

Q: What benefits did you receive from your study abroad?
A: I was able to try different foods I had never had before, including finding new favorites. I also met a lot of very interesting people who continue to be my friends, and help me see the world differently. And I also gained many life experiences that help me in my confidence and ability to understand others.
Q: How has the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures at ECU shaped your college experience and influenced you?
A: The Foreign Languages & Literatures Department has shaped my time by offering me the skills I needed to take full advantage of the study abroad experience. Not only in learning a new language, but also in helping prepare me for what to expect, through consultation.

Q: Do you expect to travel again through the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures here at ECU?
A: I don’t think I will be going through the department again, as I am graduating. Perhaps if I ever end up working with it again after I graduate, in relation to my job.

Q: What skills did you learn that can be applied to your day to day life?
A: The ability to better understand those from different cultures, how to observe perspectives through language, and how to better accept the customs of many different people.

Q: Did any part of your trip have a lasting impact on your life?
A: I feel more hopeful for the future, and more confident in the people around me and throughout the world.

Map Of Japan, Tokyo in the center

Lucas and his friends
Arden Vessie reflects about her Trip to Xela, Guatemala  Interview by Alison Moller

My name is Arden Vessie and I’m a sophomore majoring in Biochemistry and Hispanic studies.

My interest in the Spanish language and Hispanic culture started early in my education in middle and high school classes, and with my Hispanic studies major, this interest has blossomed into a major part of my day-to-day life.

I typically try to take any opportunity to practice my Spanish in an out-of-classroom context, so when I heard about the chance to travel to Xela, Guatemala this past summer and apply my Spanish while volunteering in a mobile medical clinic, I jumped at the chance to participate. It was an experience that perfectly combined my love for Spanish and interest in entering the medical field.

Arden is a sophomore undergraduate student at ECU, double majoring in Biochemistry and Hispanic Studies

I left in mid-May of last year to travel to Xela for almost two weeks. Although my trip was short, it had limitless impact on my life, the way I view the world, and the way I study Hispanic cultures.

Map of Guatemala. Xela, also known as Quetzaltenango, is in the West.
My group traveled to a different community each day to offer free health care to its residents, and I applied the Spanish skills I’ve gained here at ECU by scribing and helping to translate for doctors, taking patient medical histories and vital signs, and getting to know members of the local community.

Although Spanish conversation, grammar, and composition classes that I had taken before ECU taught me functional Spanish, I realized while I was in Guatemala that I had learned something even more important in the classroom setting here at ECU that allowed me to thrive in Guatemala: how to learn experientially.

There are so many Spanish-speaking cultures and dialects that it would be impossible to get to know them all fully within four years.

I feel fortunate to attend a school where my Spanish professors not only teach me language and culture technicalities, but also skills like meaning inference, linguistic circumlocution, cultural awareness, and regional language adaptation. These skills have allowed me to apply successfully my linguistic knowledge in Guatemala, and they now allow me to thrive in my internship in medical Spanish, and will no doubt continue to enrich my experience studying abroad with ECU in Granada, Spain this summer and elsewhere in the future.
When I came to college, I was curious about studying abroad because I knew I would love the opportunity to further my education in another country. I wasn’t sure when or where to go or even what to study. It wasn’t until I decided on my Hispanic Studies minor that I started looking into study abroad opportunities.

In the spring of 2016, I had my Spanish Grammar and Composition class with Prof. Rosa Lopez-Cañete who helps run the ILYC Granada, Spain program through ECU. She tells all of her students about the study abroad opportunity and after hearing her and other students talk about it, I knew I had to go. I decided on a one-month study abroad in Granada, Spain during the summer of 2016 which allotted me two credits towards my minor.

Before traveling to Spain, I already had an intermediate level of Spanish understanding and I also had a little knowledge about cultural differences between Spaniards and Americans.

After traveling to Spain, I had bettered my language and had developed an even better understanding of the Spanish culture. Out of all the things I learned, I will not forget that “southern hospitality” is not exactly found in Spain; I appreciated my experience of holding doors for people, smiling towards strangers, and waving to drivers who let you pass in the streets, but I hardly receiving any thanks or smiles in return. I also benefitted by growing as young adult in a very diverse and changing world.

My experiences are ones I hope to never forget and I plan to relive them through the many pictures and journal writings I have. The department has done an excellent job of providing
foreign language students with opportunities to try new things, become more globally-aware, and experience other cultures here in the U.S. and abroad.

Through the department, I discovered the ECU Spanish Club for which I have had the privilege of serving on the executive board and developing my leadership skills.

Although I am already an independent person, traveling to another country “alone” gave me a whole new perspective of true independence. I now have more confidence in making my own decisions and planning things out. The experience of another culture for an extended amount of time increased my appreciation of our diverse world even more than before. I cannot wait to travel again.

Map of Spain, Granada is in the South
Upcoming Study Abroad
Students share their Excitement
Trip to Kyoto, Japan

K'Shylah Shebreeyce, Chelsie Hargrove and Mariama Abubakri

When I study abroad in Kyoto with Dr. Tucker I hope to learn more about the cultural perspectives and traditions of Japan. I can't wait to see the shrines and temples that we will travel to. I also would like to advance my Japanese language speaking skills that I learned in high school from Molina-Sensei and in Okamura-Sensei’s class here at ECU, I’m sure I'll get lots of practice while in Japan. I’m so excited to go and I'll always be extremely grateful for this opportunity!

K'Shylah

I'm most excited about visiting the Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto! I've always wanted to see it, so to finally be given this opportunity I'm more than ecstatic.

Chelsie
Trip to Saint Petersburg, Russia

Dr. Justin Wilmes and Jason Port,
Russian Studies and Security Studies Double Major

The Russian language and culture have greatly interested me for some time now, and I wanted to gain a firsthand perspective. I am a Russian Studies and Security Studies double major, so with the current geopolitical landscape, it is important for me to have a greater understanding about how one of the world's major powers operates. Before traveling to Moscow and to Vladimir, I had already taken two years of the language, so I knew enough to be able to participate in basic communication with my host family and some strangers in public. However, there were times in which I had to look up translations or communicate through a third party, as my vocabulary was far more limited then than it is now.

As a result of my study abroad, I have gained greater insight into the true nature of Russian culture, practical language experience, and I have made friendships which I continue to maintain today. I have been fortunate enough to become involved with the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, especially the Russian Studies Program. I have received opportunities to conduct extensive research with the great assistance of a mentor, Dr. Justin Wilmes, on a topic closely related to my field, and then present that research at an Undergraduate Symposium and the University of Pittsburgh.
I have made a lot of great relationships with both students and staff in the Department that have definitely made my college experience far more fulfilling. I definitely plan to travel again with the Department, and am going on Dr. Wilmes’ trip to St. Petersburg this summer.

As a result of my study abroad, I have become far more resourceful, independent, wise, and cognizant of the Russian language. I have also become more culturally aware, and can now more effectively interact with individuals of many cultures, as I have a greater understanding of how linguistic and cultural barriers can be overcome.

This trip is what initially inspired me to change my Russian Studies minor to a second major. As a result, I will be far more likely to utilize my knowledge of Russian language and culture in my future career.

Map of Russia, Saint Petersburg in the upper left

Please visit Interdisciplinary Russian Studies Program website at www.ecu.edu/Russian/ for more information about courses offered, cultural events and faculty contacts.
Foreign Languages and Literatures Department
Faculty-Led Summer 2017
Study Abroad Programs

For the upcoming summer 2017 there are many Study Abroad Programs available for ECU students led by the faculty of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department. There are Study Abroad Programs in France, Germany, Russia, Cuba, Spain, and Argentina. The students can choose a program which runs in May, June or July, and spend for up to 30 days in the country of their choice taking multiple classes as well as sightseeing.

Please visit the ECU FLL website to learn more about different Study Abroad Programs for this Summer 2017 at www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/foreign/studyabroad.cfm
June 25–July 22, 2017

Few urban spaces have garnered as much recent attention as the metropolis at the center of Germany, Berlin. It’s a place of new ideas, where sustainable technology and modern design are a way of life, and art galleries can be found on nearly every corner. This dynamic city is a central location of modern European history and has left a major imprint on the political, social, and cultural history of the 20th century.

Let Berlin be your classroom and explore one of the world’s most vibrant cities! Whether you are beginning to learn the language or becoming more proficient, discovering German culture or engaging with its troubled history, the Holocaust, Berlin with its many historical, artistic, and cultural sites, will offer a truly transformative experience.

Academics

Students can choose among three options:

A) 6 credits of German language at the Inlingua Language School in the center of Berlin; students will be placed in appropriate levels; no prior knowledge of German needed; 4 hours of German per day

B) 3 credits for FORL 2600: The Holocaust and Its Remembrance. Outside of Berlin through lectures and visits, such as the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, the Memorial to Murdered Jews of Europe, the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, the House of Wannsee, etc. Lectures are in English

C) option A) and B) combined

Day trips and guided excursions in and around Berlin are included in the program. Additional evening or weekend excursions, such as Dresden or the Spreewald, are optional.

Eligibility

• GPA of 2.0 or higher
• Preference will be given to students taking German intensives classes

Program cost of $3500 includes:

• Flights操纵2.0 or higher
• Visa
• 6-7 hours of college credit
• Manageable costs for food
• Peer support, day trips, walking tours, museums, and a special German dinner
• Visits to Cold War-related sites, such as Berlin Wall remnants, the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie, the GDR-Museum, etc.
• Cultural events such as an opera, concerts, dinners together

For More Information

Dr. Susanne Lenné Jones
252-737-2390
jonessu@ecu.edu
www.ecu.edu/berlinstudyabroad

ECU Summer Study Abroad in

BERLIN

June 25–July 22, 2017

White nights in St. Petersburg:
Past and Present

May 22 – June 18, 2017

Courses in Russian Politics, Art & Culture (in English), 6 credit hours

Earn ECU Foundation Curriculum Credit

Visit world-famous cultural and historical sites

Directed and led by Dr. Justin Wilmes, Russian Studies

Application to apply: January 31st - Contact wilmesj15@ecu.edu

Russian Studies Interdisciplinary Program, Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences

www.facebook.com/EducatripSpain/

June 25–July 22, 2017

Few urban spaces have garnered as much recent attention as the metropolis at the center of Germany, Berlin. It’s a place of new ideas, where sustainable technology and modern design are a way of life, and art galleries can be found on nearly every corner. This dynamic city is a central location of modern European history and has left a major imprint on the political, social, and cultural history of the 20th century.

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• Cultural events such as an opera, concerts, dinners together

For More Information

Dr. Susanne Lenné Jones
252-737-2390
jonessu@ecu.edu
www.ecu.edu/berlinstudyabroad

ECU STUDY ABROAD TO RUSSIA

May 22 – June 18, 2017

Courses in Russian Politics, Art & Culture (in English), 6 credit hours

Earn ECU Foundation Curriculum Credit

Visit world-famous cultural and historical sites

Directed and led by Dr. Justin Wilmes, Russian Studies

Application to apply: January 31st - Contact wilmesj15@ecu.edu

Russian Studies Interdisciplinary Program, Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences

EUC's Summer Study Abroad in Cuba

Culture Studies in Cuba (Summer Study Abroad)

Today starts here!

DATES:
May 4 – May 31, 2017

COURSES:
SPAN5441-Latin American Culture and Civilization (3 credits)
SPAK7970-Special Topics: Cuban Culture (3 credits)

For further information, contact:
Prof. Alberto D. Gómez-Vidal
Email: agomezve@ecu.edu

This is an unprecedented and unique opportunity for ECU students to study in Cuba and learn about its environmental, historical, culture, and language, while interacting with ordinary Cubans on a daily basis. Space is limited, and early application is advised.

STUDY ABROAD

East Carolina University is committed to the equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, creed, sexual orientation, or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action university, which accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.
There is more information available about Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs 2017 on the FLL Department website:

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 FLL!

www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/give/how-to-give.cfm
Departmental Events Spring 2017

Over 230 million people worldwide are on the move, looking for protection and employment. Currently 65.3 million refugees have been forced from their homes due to wars, persecution, hunger, crime and natural disasters. This year, even more are expected to leave their homelands....

Symposium Planning Committee:
Lisa Klein
Hagit Anava
Suzanne Fournier
Dina Keilchenbinder
Post Morante
Nancy Meldrum
Maryann Puckiss
Daryll Smith
Tatiana Wuren-Okpanise

Co-sponsored by:
Division of Student Affairs, Dept. of Student Involvement and Leadership, Co-Curricular Collaborations

Special thanks to:
ECU Joyner Library Services, The Scatology, and the many helpers and supporters on and off campus.

ECU’s Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Harriot College of Arts and Sciences present:

(IN)Voluntary Migration Around the Globe: the Good, the Bad, and the Unknown

February 20-23, 2017

A multi-disciplinary symposium where students can explore, broaden and reconstruct narrow political visions of the “other.”

Undergraduate Research Symposium

RESURGENT RUSSIA

March, 2017

DIGITAL Innovation and Scholarship in Social Sciences and Humanities

March 16, 2017

All events held at Faulkner Gallery, Joyner Library, East Carolina University.
Thursday, March 16th (8:00 AM - 5:15 PM)
Attendance is free.

http://www.ecu.edu/DISHH/
FLL Student Awards Banquet

Thank you to the generous alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the department who made this first-ever FLL awards banquet possible. We could not have done it without you. Thank you also to our colleagues on the FLL Graduation and Awards Committee for planning the event (Profs. Escourido, Fallon, Krosl, Murphy, and Smith). 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.

During the Awards Banquet FLL faculty members Dr. Frédéric Fladenmuller received the Distinguished Research Award and Dr. Birgit Jensen received the Distinguished Service Award.
Program
Hispanic Studies Bookstore

Awards
Simon Vuchev
Yesssi Williams

Outstanding Level 2004 Awards
Ancient Greek
Alison Moller

French
Samantha Bordeaux
Jessica Broughton
Cassidy Levy
Brittany Sessoms
Madeleine Watson

German
Elisha Brooker
Kestra James
Angel Stallings
Jonathan VanRiper

Spanish
Jasmine Bombard
Brooks Holt
Tristan Kosich
Allison Nelson
Taylor Shepardson

Japanese
Erika Takeda
Satsuki Tazawa

Latin
Janki Patel

Russian
Michael A. Carneiro
Samantha Grzybek

Outstanding Major
BA Multidisciplinary Studies,
Classical Civilization
Mia Willis

BS French Education
Amanda Keating

BA Foreign Languages and Literatures,
German Concentration
Emma Caterinicchio

BA Foreign Languages and Literatures,
Hispanic Studies
Michael Sciacca

BA Multidisciplinary Studies,
Russian Studies
Ryan M. Rowlee

Outstanding Minor
French: Henna Schafer
Hispanic Studies: Jessie Tucci-Herron
Russian Studies: Elizabeth R. Lafave

Col. Bryan Bennett Study in Russia Award
Samantha Grzybek

Dina Jensen Award
Hunter Marshall  Brittney Yetter

Anthony J. Papalas Scholarship
In Classical Studies
Alison Moller

Fleming Perry Scholarship
Rachel Griffith
Molly McKenzie
Jeffrey Mullins

Marcel Proust Award
Henna Schafer

German Priority Fund Award
Richard Bjork  Jeffrey Mullins

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
Study Abroad Scholarship
Mariama Abubakri  Chelsie Hargrove
K'Shylah Whitehurst

Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URCA) Award
Elizabeth R. Lafave, Jason Port
Prof. Wilson-Okamura and Janki Patel, Outstanding Level 2004, Latin

Dr. Smith and Dr. Rezek, Exec. Director of Global Affairs

Dr. Murenina and Elizabeth R. Lafave, Outstanding Minor, Russian Studies

Dr. Ford and Michael Sciacca, Outstanding Major, Hispanic Studies
ECU students

Dr. Rush and Hanna Schafer, Outstanding Minor, French

Dr. Wilmes and Samantha Grzybek, Col. Bryan Bennett Study in Russia Award
Dr. Médevielle and Madeleine Watson, Jessica Broughton, Samantha Bordeaux, Outstanding Level 2004, French

Dr. Fladenmuller and Hanna Schafer, Marcel Proust Award

Dr. Stevens and Alison Moller, Outstanding Level 2004, Ancient Greek
Dr. Jensen and Hunter Marshall, Dina Jensen Award

Dr. Jones and Jeffrey Mullins, Richard Bjork, German Priority Fund Award
Council of Student Ambassadors 2016-2017

President        Mia Willis
Vice-President    Kristoffer Rixon
Secretary         Vincent Malizia
Sergeant at Arms  Sofia Saffo

Student Outreach Committee

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Corry Atkinson, Elvia Bello, Erin Marohn,
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                Christine Min, Michael Sciacca, Brian Thaxton

Public Relations Committee

President        Kestra James
Ben Coleman, Maria Miller, Alison Moller,
                Kolin Murphy, Delaney Smith, Matthew Zimmerman

Faculty Mentors   Dr. Médevielle, Dr. Papalas, Prof.Tyson,

                Prof. Wilson-Okamura
The FLL Newsletter is produced as a service to alumni and friends of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department. If you are interested in supporting new initiatives or the many students FLL sends on study abroad each academic year and summer, I encourage you to get in touch with me or contribute directly to our programs using the form below.

Contact the Chair, Dr. Benjamin Fraser at fraserb14@ecu.edu

GIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

I would like to make a donation to the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures in the amount of:

_____ $200 _____$100 _____$50 _____$25 _____Other

Your contribution enables us to continue with our many endeavors to enrich our students’ experiences and programs.

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Address:  ______________________________________________________________
City: ________________________ State _________________ Zip ________________
Class of: ______________________________ E-mail: __________________________

All contributions are tax deductible. Please make your check payable to “ECU Foundation, Inc.” In the Memo line please write “Foreign Languages & Lit Priority Fund”. Mail to: Chair, Foreign Languages & Literatures Department, East Carolina University, 3324 Bate Bldg., MS 556, Greenville, NC 27858-4353.

We appreciate your generosity!