

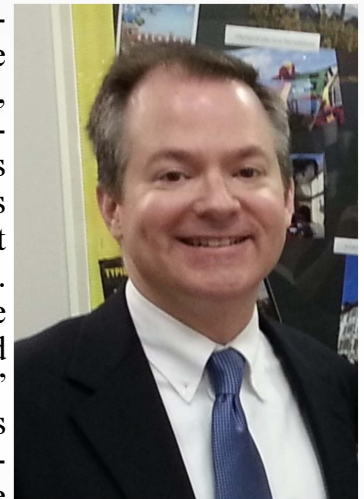


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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Modern Languages and Classics had an exciting year. Faculty have been productive in research and in receiving scholarly awards of all kinds, including prestigious research fellowships through the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, the Folger Library, the Fondation Hardt in Switzerland, and the Meeter Center in Michigan. Faculty published books with Oxford University Press and Routledge, and in a great variety of academic venues. Classics faculty organized the symposium “Discipline and Control in Calvinist Geneva.” Colleagues won the President’s Research Award for senior faculty in Humanities and Fine Arts, the Educator of Excellence Award for the state of Alabama, and a coveted Distinguished Teaching Fellow Award.



*Douglas Lightfoot,
Chair*

Undergraduate and graduate students have set records in presenting their projects, receiving research funding, and accruing honors. Undergraduates won several research honors, a record nine Fulbright Awards, four Boren Scholarships from the National Security Education Program, a Critical Language Scholarship from the Department of State, Dean’s Awards of Merit, and UA’s premiere Morris Mayer Award. They participated in the Emerging Scholars Program and in the Computer Based Honors Program.

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR (CONT.)

Graduate students shined with the Arts and Sciences Award for Best Master's Thesis, Excellence in Teaching at the PhD level for the College, Best Student Paper at the South Eastern Conference on Linguistics, and the School of Education's Symposium Merit Award. The seventh annual University of Alabama Languages Conference organized by students was a round success with about seventy presenters from over two dozen institutions.

The Italian program had its inaugural year of offering Italian as a concentration in the foreign languages and literature major!

Faculty have positions as Fellows in the Service Learning Program, in Learning in Action (both as a Fellow and on the Assessment Team), and in a wide variety of organizations, including the Modern Language Association and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, two premiere national societies.

Further teaching and service related activity includes local school and city outreach. Spanish Outreach provides rich opportunities for students to engage with the community, and the French program is implementing an elementary school partnership. Faculty contribute to the A&S Teaching Hub. We again hosted French, German, and Spanish high school language days and brought upwards of 1,100 young people to campus.

International opportunities abound for study abroad. Students had a faculty-led trip to Cuba in spring, and in summer 2016, faculty taught students in China, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. The Vergina Excavation Program began in Greece. Partnering with the College of Engineering, the Two Steps Ahead German program provides study abroad and internships.

We hosted a number of distinguished scholars. Aside from the many University of Alabama Languages Conference guests and the keynote speakers Bill VanPatten (Michigan State University) and Rubén Gallo (Princeton University), the Classics Symposium brought Scott Manetsch (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School), Jeffrey Watt (the University of Mississippi), and Jeannine Olson (Rhode Island College). Further illustrious visitors included Spyros Pavlides (Aristotle University, Greece), José Colmeiro (Prince of Asturias Chair, University of Auckland, New Zealand), Louise Dupré (Université du Québec à Montréal), Pap Ndiaye (Institut d'études politiques de Paris), Philippe Gumpowicz (Université Paris-Saclay), Michelle Murray (Vanderbilt University), and Betty Kaklamanidou (Aristotle University, Greece). Colleagues from the Goethe Institute in Atlanta held a Career Day/Business Information session.

The student organization La Última Letra hosted Terrell Morgan (The Ohio State University), Karen Bishop (Rutgers University), and Erin O'Rourke (The University of Alabama).

The department relies heavily on our office staff. Pamela Richardson was a nominee for a UA Service Award, and we benefited from Lauren Willingham's valuable assistance in spring. Jennifer Patterson was welcomed back from a leave.

In summer and fall 2016, upgrading for the flooring on our level of B.B. Comer Hall took place. Interior directional signage was created and affixed throughout our floor. An electronic directory was installed near the main foyer, and e-signage was mounted on both sides of the foyer. The departmental website was reconstructed.

Enjoy this edition of the department's news and events, and alumni and friends are invited to visit our new webpage at mlc.ua.edu. We appreciate hearing your news and updates!

MLC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor



*Matthew Feminella, German
PhD, University of North Carolina*

Full-Time Instructors



*Andrew Word
Spanish*



*Kelley Yarber
Spanish*



*Gina Stamm
French
PhD, Emory U*



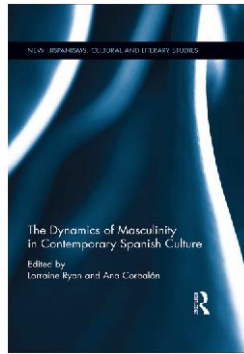
*Alexandra Natoli
French
PhD, U of Virginia*



*Lucia Vedovi
Italian
PhD, Rutgers U*



Dr. Ana Corbalán published a co-edited volume, *The Dynamics of*



Masculinity in Contemporary Spanish Culture (Routledge, 2017).



Dr. Isabelle Drewelow was 2017 Alabama Educator of Excellence Top Post-Secondary Educator, awarded by the Board of Directors of The Alabama World Languages Association. She is also Alabama's Nominee for the Southern Conference on Language Teaching Educator of the Year.



Dr. Michael Picone won the 2017 President's Faculty Research Award for a senior scholar in the area of arts and humanities.

Dr. Kelly Shannon, recipient of a 2016-17 Loeb Classical Library Foundation fellowship, spent two weeks in residence at the Fondation Hardt in Geneva.

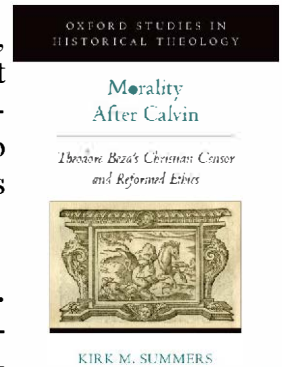


Dr. Tatiana Tsakiropoulou Summers obtained a contract with



Routledge for an edited volume on "Women and the Ideology of Political Exclusion: From Classical Antiquity to the Modern Era."

Dr. Kirk Summers published his book, *Morality After Calvin. Theodore Beza's Christian Censor and Reformed Ethics* (Oxford University Press, 2016). Dr. Summers also organized a symposium on "Discipline and Control in Calvinist Geneva," won the Meeter Center Fellowship for research at the Reformation Library (Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan), and was just announced General Editor of the new project to translate Vermigli's *Common Places*.



Raegan Lemmond, Dr. Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers, Dr. Sandrine Hope, Dr. Regina Range, Dr. William Worden and Dr. Metka Zupančič all gave individual presentations at the Alabama World Languages Association convention at Auburn University in January 2017.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FACULTY FOR THEIR NUMEROUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

BOREN & FULBRIGHT AWARDS

Five students were selected for Boren Scholarships to study language abroad. Boren recipients represent a vital pool of highly motivated individuals who wish to work in the federal national security arena. In exchange for funding, Boren Scholarship recipients commit to working in the federal government for at least one year after graduation. Amounts range from \$8,000 for a summer program to \$20,000 for six-to-12 months of study. Dr. Carmen Mayer, Associate Professor of French, served as the campus representative for the Boren Awards. This unprecedented number of winners placed The University of Alabama among the top 15 universities nationwide to receive Borens:

Merideth Cazalas, a junior majoring in international studies with minors in psychology, political science and Japanese. She will study Japanese in an intensive language program at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan.

Maria Huryn, a second-year student studying international relations and economics. Huryn will be studying Russian language and Eastern European politics in Daugavpils, Latvia, during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Amica Rapadas is a sophomore studying international relations, economics and Chinese. She is also a member of the Catherine J. Randall Research Scholars Program (formerly the Computer-Based Honors Program). Rapadas is the president of the Chinese Culture Club. She will be studying in Chengdu, China, to strengthen her proficiency in Mandarin and to learn about culture and politics.

Samuel Watson is in the Honors College and is double majoring in computer science and mathematics with a minor in French. He will be in Seoul studying Korean.

Matthew Zelif is pursuing a self designed major through New College titled international development. He will be at the

University of Ghana for a full academic year while studying a local language called Akan.

Nine students won Fulbright Awards for the 2017-2018 academic year, both for English-teaching assistantships and for research. Join us in congratulating our winners: **Ruth Bishop**, who holds a BA in Spanish, will teach in Colombia; **Benjamin Canady**, a Japanese minor, will teach in South Korea; **Kelsey Daugherty**, who minored in German, will teach in Germany; **Brittany Groves**, a graduate in Foreign Languages and Literature – German, will also teach in Germany; **Jonathan Joyner**, a French minor, will conduct a study in Sri Lanka on its recent civil war; **Jackson Knappen**, who holds a BA in Spanish, will teach in Spain; **Alexandra LeViness**, who minored in both German and Russian, will conduct research at the Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics in Greifswald, Germany; **Charlotte Sheridan**, an Arabic student, will conduct research in environmental studies in Jordan; and **Ann Vamedoe**, who minored in Spanish, will teach in Spain.

Dr. Carmen Mayer (French) and **Dr. Matthew Feminella** (German) both serve on the UA campus Fulbright Committee.

CHINESE

In addition to its Boren scholar, Amica Rapadas (minor in Chinese), the Chinese program congratulates Erin Behland, who received a competitive U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship for summer study in China.

The following students were also recognized this year for Excellence in Chinese: Eric Caselton, Sarah Thomas, and Minh-Khoa Tran (First-Year); Hadley Spadaccini, Brooke Kennedy, and Shelley (Elle) Gossman (Second-Year); Will Sherrer (Third-Year); and Janet Ruppert (Fourth-Year). Congratulations to all!

CLASSICS

Yuliya Minets successfully defended her dissertation, titled “The Slow Fall of Babel: Conceptualization of Languages, Linguistic Diversity and History in Late Ancient Christianity.”

Dr. Minets joins the Classics program with three articles forthcoming in major journals, all on language and communication during the Patristic period.

Also, kudos to **Isabelle Cimala** for acceptance into University of Pennsylvania’s post-bacc program in Classics. **Virginia Wright** was named this year’s Outstanding Student in Latin and was presented with a gift, a copy of the *Oxford Handbook of Roman Law and Society*.

Congratulations also to **Luke Knight** who received a substantial fellowship to continue his study of Classics and Early Christianity at the University of Minnesota.

FRENCH

Numerous undergraduate students received honors in the French program. **Bre-lahn Wyatt** and **Martin Cole Lewter** won the James McCann Award. Other undergraduate honors went to **Addison Kennedy** (Prix d’excellence), **Tiffany Bailey** (Outstanding French Major), **Taylor C. Daniels** and **Michelle M. Degeorge** (Outstanding French Minors), **William “Guillaume” Wolf** (Outstanding Freshman in French), and **Cameron Courtney** (Special Recognition).

Amanda Clower and **Zachary Michael McGlathery** were inducted into Pi Delta Phi. **Maria Gerasikova** (Majors in Philosophy, French, and Political Science) and **Amanda Graves** (French Minor) both won Dean’s Merit awards. **Ciara Malaugh** was A&S Distinguished Undergraduate Scholar.

Christopher

Lancaster received the prestigious Morris L. Mayer Premier Award for selfless service to the UA community, the Austin Scholar Award (top graduating senior in the Culverhouse College of Commerce), the Campbell-Portera Scholarship

(outstanding senior in leadership and service within A&S), the Murray Havens Award (top senior in economics), the Double Major with Distinction Award (for his 4.0 GPA in Culverhouse), and the Alumni Outstanding Senior Award (for students who have excelled at UA and exhibited excellent character).

Graduate students were recognized as well, both in and outside of the department: **Meaghan Coogan** (Outstanding Service



by a French Graduate Student), **Robin Turner**, for her work on the University of Alabama Languages Conference 2017 organizing committee, and **Maud Barthes** (A&S Excellence in Teaching Award).

GERMAN

Students received \$10,000 in scholarship support through the Barbara Fischer Memorial Fund, the Bell Endowed Scholarship, and the generous support of two individual donor funds, the Donald E. Hall Scholarship Fund and Melanie Sontheimer Scholarship Fund.

Chase Trautwein received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award, and **Samantha Wetzel** the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award. **Rachel Dodson** and **Katherine Lightfoot** received scholarships through the Federation of German-American Clubs, and will spend the coming year in Germany. **Brittany Groves** (BA 2017, German and international studies) has been awarded a Fulbright English teaching assistantship. Upon her return from Germany, she will be joining the German MA program. **Kelsey Daugherty** (BA 2017, Journalism, minor German and Business) also received a Fulbright Award to teach in Germany. **Alexandra LaViness** (BA 2017, physics/mathematics, minors German and Russian) received a prestigious Fulbright Research Award and will be conducting research at the Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics in Greifswald, Germany.

The German House and Club were active with well-attended festivities and regular Stammtisch meetings, and the German honors chapter, Delta Phi Alpha, initiated 24 students on Honors Day.

ITALIAN

Madison Santella and **Alexander Muth** are the first two students ever to major in Italian in the new Italian concentration of the Foreign Languages and Literature major. Madison double-majored with her second major in Nutrition, and Alexan-

der triple-majored, with his other majors in Mathematics and English.

RUSSIAN

Alexandra LeViness, a Russian minor, has received a Fulbright. After she returns to the U.S., she will begin graduate school at Princeton. Alexandra was also honored this year by the program as the Post-Secondary Scholar Laureate by the American Councils of Teachers of Russian and she was inducted into Dobro Slovo, the Slavic honor society. Six additional students were inducted into Dobro Slovo: Miranda F. Shapiro, Scott M. Patterson, Victoria L. Kraftsow, Megan N. Brundage, and Chelsea J. Waters. In addition to her Boren Scholarship, Maria Huryn, a Russian minor, was honored with the Strong Memorial Scholarship in Russian, together with Jordan Anderson. Huryn and Joseph Forcherio were also actively involved in the Model United Nations. The following students in Russian will be studying abroad next year: Matthew Barret, Michelle DeGeorge, Megan Zecher will study on the American Institute For Foreign Study program in St. Petersburg in the fall; Amanda Filardo will participate in the American Council of Teachers of Russian program in Kazakhstan; Joseph Forcherio and Neil Quigley will study abroad in the spring. The Russian program is proud to report that its alumna, Abigail Thompson, is currently on a Fulbright in Siberia (Irkutsk) and has been accepted both to Stanford Law School and to the M.A. program offered by the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Stanford.

SPANISH

Caroline Beard was awarded the Outstanding Thesis Award from Arts & Sciences. Caroline is currently a doctoral student in Spanish literature at Vanderbilt University.

Alyssia Miller received the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics' Reza Ordoubadian Award for best student paper

presented at the New Orleans meeting this year.

Two Spanish majors – Ruth Bishop and Jackson Knappen – and one Spanish minor – Ann Varnedoe – received Fulbright Awards. Ruth will be teaching in Colombia while Jackson and Ann will be teaching in Spain.

Valencia Tamper (PhD 2015) starts this fall as an Assistant Professor of Spanish at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX.

Forrest Blackburn (PhD 2016) began a position last fall as an Assistant Professor of Spanish at Dalton State College in Dalton, GA.

After working several years at the University of West Alabama, Ana Capanegra (PhD 2014) began a position last fall as an Assistant Professor of Spanish at Cleveland State University in Cleveland, OH.

After working several years at Tennessee Wesleyan University, Lorena Gómez (PhD 2012) starts this fall as an Assistant Professor of Spanish at Western State Colorado University in Gunnison, CO.

Rossie Stoops (PhD 2005) has been promoted to Professor of Spanish and French at the University of Montevallo in Montevallo, AL.



Dr. Lorena Gómez wins Faculty Merit Award at Tennessee Wesleyan College

MLC students placed well in Fulbright awards.

ARABIC

The Arabic program continues to enjoy growth in enrollment under the guidance of Assistant Professor Dr. Safa Elnaili (PhD, Louisiana State University) and Dr. Saad Bushaala (PhD, University of South Carolina). Course offerings expanded with the addition of ARB 260 The Arabian Nights. This class is based on a collection of stories (*One Thousand and One Nights*) in translation framed in one story and narrated by Shahrazad. The course is taught by Dr. Elnaili.

Fulbright Awardee Charlotte Sheridan graduates with an individually designed minor in Arabic and will conduct environmental studies research in Jordan in 2017-2018. Further students honored this year were Ethan Cissell (Excellence in First-Year Arabic), Lauren Petrey (Excellence in Second-Year Arabic), Jahman Hill (Excellence in Third-Year Arabic), and Jennifer Lorentz (Graduate Student Excellence in Arabic).

Arabic students enjoy a variety of opportunities to deepen their understanding of Arabic language and cultures. Learners have access to intensive tutoring, writing workshops, movie nights, Arabic Club events, the Arabic Gathering, and more.

There is broad support within the College of Arts and Sciences for further academic enhancement of the Arabic program, and the department looks forward to this development.

CHINESE

The Chinese program had another strong year and sees growing numbers of students in the upper levels.

Mingda Sun defended her University of Alabama doctoral degree in Secondary Education and joined the teaching corps of Dr. Xiang Zhang and Ms. Mengshi (Victoria) Pei, and the program will retain Ms. Sun for 2017-2018.

Dr. Zhang took a group of students in the summer of 2016 to study abroad in China. She serves as Secretary of the state Chi-

nese Language Teachers Association, and continues as a board member for two local organizations, as well as consults with administration on Chinese economic interests.

Chinese faculty are active with students on campus in a number of ways, from Homecoming events, to Get On Board Day, to movie nights and Chinese Culture Club activities.

CLASSICS

The Classics program enjoyed a banner year. Program Director Dr. Kirk Summers published *Morality after Calvin: Theodore Beza's Christian Censor and Reformed Ethics* (Oxford University Press, 2016) and organized and hosted a symposium on campus titled "Discipline and Control in Calvinist Geneva" (September 29, 2016), which drew in noted scholars from around the country. He also published an article on the interpretation of the phrase *logikē latreia* at Romans 12:1. In addition, Dr. Summers conducted research with undergrad Classics major Abby Holland, who received an SGA grant for the project. Abby presented the results of the research to the University of North Carolina Classics Undergraduate Conference in the spring. Dr. Summers along with Abby has submitted the paper, which looks at the meaning and translation of Philippians 1:21-22, for consideration for publication in a journal. Next fall semester Dr. Summers will be on sabbatical and taking a fellowship at the Meeter Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. Tatiana Summers is co-editing a book for Routledge that results from her conference on "Women, Democracy, and the Ideology of Exclusion," held at UA last March. Because of her leadership in the Alabama Greece Initiative, the program was able to host Dr. Spyros Pavlides of Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, who gave a lively talk for the faculty and students of the Classics program on "'Nature' in Ancient Greek Philosophy. The Roots in the Aegean Mountains." Dr. T. Summers is also serving in the oversight committees for

developing the museum studies graduate certificate at UA and the Vergina Excavation Program for UA students.

Dr. Kelly Shannon was on leave during the spring semester and is benefitting from a Loeb Classical Library Foundation fellowship so that she can make progress on her two book projects: one on history and memory in Tacitus's *Annals*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press, and a second on Phlegon's thaumatological work to be part of Brill's supplement to the Jacoby series. She is also contributing an article on Thucydides for Dr. T. Summers' edited volume (Routledge). Dr. Shannon also received a research scholarship to fund a two-week research stay at the Fondation Hardt in Vandoeuvres, Switzerland. She also received a research grant from the University of Alabama to pursue her research on Tacitus in Oxford.



CRITICAL LANGUAGES

The Critical Languages Center, one of the leading centers of self-study based language learning in the USA, has offered students the opportunity to learn less commonly taught languages, and continues to develop a learner-centered/supervised self-study language educational system with technologically enhanced methods, including online video tutors.

This academic year, the CLC increased learning resources online through their website clc.ua.edu. Students can study and review the conversation videos of many languages online outside the class. The CLC also revived the Hebrew program this year with Guy Antebi (via online system) who is an instructor at Brandeis University,

a leading Jewish study institution in the U.S. Also the Farsi and Swahili programs changed to an online instruction system. One of the biggest Korean chemical conglomerates, Hyosung USA, decided to support our CLC Korean program with an annual \$10,000 donation. This donation will be used for scholarships/internships for the students of Korean at the CLC. An online Korean program is now under development by Laurie Arizumi with the support of Korean members of the CLC. It is slated to launch in spring 2018.

The National Association of Self-Instructional Language Programs under the executive director, Koji Arizumi, is in active development, and now includes many graduates of UA working for NASILP. This year, the NASILP voted Jenny Faile (a graduate of UA, and director of Lesser-taught Languages at University of South Alabama) as secretary of the NASILP. Heather West (another graduate of

UA, and director of the Critical Languages Program at Samford University) is preparing to host the national conference at Samford University on November 3-4 in 2017. Michael Dillon (a graduate of UA and Chair of Department of Modern Foreign Languages at Morehouse College) started their Wolof Program. The NASILP website is the central hub of the national network for all the NASILP institutions. (*See also: Japanese*)

FRENCH

It has been a busy year in French. Approximately 600 high school students from Alabama attended the annual French Convention in March. Three guest speakers were hosted or co-sponsored by various faculty members: Dr. Michael Picone invit-

ed French historian and pioneer of “Black Studies” in France, Dr. Pap Ndiaye (Institut d'études politiques de Paris); French historical musicologist and jazz specialist, Dr. Philippe Gumpłowicz (Université Paris - Saclay), spoke in April; and in November, Dr. Zupančič invited writer, poet, and essayist, Dr. Louise Dupré (Université du Québec à Montréal). Dr. April Stevens launched a new outreach project at University Place Elementary School, where students in the Cercle français provided French lessons to kindergarteners and first-graders, a program which will continue next academic year.

Several faculty members were honored this year: Dr. April Stevens was nominated for Outstanding Commitment to Advising Award; Dr. Michael Picone won the President's Faculty Research Award in the senior scholar category for the College of Arts and Sciences; and Dr. Isabelle Drewelow was elected as a Vice-chair of the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages, received the 2017 Alabama Educator of Excellence Award by AWLA, earned a nomination for 2017 Educator of Excellence by the Southern Conference on Language Teaching, was granted a UA Learning in Action Fellowship, and was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.

French faculty continued to be active in research. Dr. Isabelle Drewelow authored two blog posts with the teaching hub (UA initiative) and gave an invited talk at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Bruce Edmunds published an article,



“Mathurin Régner’s *Satire Macette: Early Modern Concepts of sociabilité and honneur*,” in the *Papers on French Seventeenth Century Literature*. Dr. Carmen Mayer published a book review of Anna Gural-Migdal’s “*L’Écrit-Écran des Rougon-Macquart. Conceptions iconiques et filmiques du roman chez Zola*,” in *Nineteenth-Century French Studies*, and presented papers at two international conferences. Dr. Michael Picone published the essay, “Eye Dialect and Pronunciation Respelling in the USA,” in *The Routledge Handbook of the English Writing System*, gave an invited talk in Tuscaloosa, and delivered presentations at an international and a national conference. Dr. Jean Luc Robin published an

article, “La composition sérielle chez Molière,” in *Les Lettres romanes*, and gave presentations at three international conferences. Dr. Metka Zupančič published a book chapter, “Ágota Kristóf’s Europe: (Un)Connectedness and (Non)Belonging in The Third Lie,” in *The Novel and Europe: Imagining the Continent in Post-1945 Fiction*, and gave four presentations, one regionally and three internationally.

The French program is sad to see its long-time colleague, Dr. Zupančič, retire. We will miss this smile. The program is, however, happy to welcome two new instructors

of French, Dr. Alexandra Natoli, who comes to us from the University of Virginia, and Dr. Gina Stamm, a graduate of Emory University.

GERMAN

Dr. Matthew Feminella joined the German faculty as an instructor for German in

fall 2016 and was hired into a tenure-earning Assistant Professorship in fall 2017. Dr. Thomas Fox continues his appointment as Vice-President of Culture for the Alabama Germany Partnership.

Raegan Lemmond serves as Past President of the South Eastern Association for Language Learning Technology.

Dr. Douglas Lightfoot serves on the board of the Alabama World Language Education Foundation.

Drs. Lightfoot and Range traveled as part of the UA Cuba Initiative to Cuba. Dr. Range examined German-Jewish history and also presented her work at a workshop in Israel, on *Wahlheimat* (Elective Exiles) at Yad Hashmonah.

Collaboration with the College of Engineering expanded further with about thirty students currently in the International German Student Exchange Program, with a double major or minor in German. Our status as an international testing center for the Goethe Institute expanded further with more students taking the internationally recognized exams. The 22nd High School German Day drew 220 high school students from nine different schools throughout the state. Laura Buder (MA, 2012) led the statewide WILD (Weekend Immersed in Language Development) event in November 2016 with German faculty support by Drs. Feminella and Lazda-Cazers.

Two German undergraduate students participated in the Emerging Scholars program, Katherine Lightfoot and Samantha Wetzel, both supervised by Dr. Range, and they presented their research at several conferences. Graduate students, Bernhard Beringer and Lisa Steiner, presented at conferences as well.



Congratulations to graduates of the German program, who hold positions all over the country: Dr. Martin Bäuml (MA 2002) is Visiting Assistant Professor of German Studies at Wesleyan University; Courtney (Dreibelbis) Kupfer (MA 2006) is working as a foreign language and English teacher at Davidson High School in Mobile, AL, and is a doctoral candidate; Matt Wehner (MA German 2008, MBA 2009) is a team leader and systems manager in the digital marketing organization of a multinational, Fortune 500 consumer packaged goods company and works with primary agency

partners in Frankfurt, Germany; Jacob Delker (BA German, BS Finance, minor in economics 2008) is working in the insurance industry specializing in the underwriting and placement of medical malpractice insurance; Lekisha Gunn (BA 2009) received an MA in public policy from Duke University in 2013, and currently lives in Vienna, Austria, where she is working as a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of

State; Reinhard Müller (MA, 2011) passed his preliminary exams in the doctoral program at the University of Texas; Ellen (Levet) Sawyer (BA FLLT German, BS Management/International business 2013) is employed by Mercedes-Benz USA in Atlanta after first interning at Porsche Cars North America in Atlanta; Ian McQuiston (BA 2014) is in the German graduate program at the University of Wisconsin; and Mandy Wilk (BA 2016) is pursuing a Master of Music at Indiana University.

ITALIAN

The Italian program welcomes Drs. Jessica Goethals and Alessandra Montalbano

as new Assistant Professors of Italian in August 2016, while Kelsey Guy was promoted from PTTI to FTTI in Italian. Dr. Paul Renigar actively collaborated with the Italian program. Dr. Claudia Romanelli continued to serve as Italian program director and undergraduate advisor. The Italian concentration was only created last year, but already has 13 majors. Dean Robert Olin and Associate Dean Tricia McElroy



congratulated our first two Italian major graduates in May 2017: Madison Santella, who graduated magna cum laude, will now pursue a graduate degree in animal and nutritional sciences in the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design at West Virginia University; Alexander Muth, who graduated summa cum laude with a BS in Mathematics, and a BA in English and Italian, will be pursuing graduate studies in linguistics at Georgetown University. A third Italian major will be graduating in December, Audrey Watford, with a second major in journalism.

In 2016-2017 a new course was created as an elective for Italian majors and minors titled "Introduction to Italian Cinema," taught by Dr. Romanelli. Dr. Jessica Goethals is revitalizing IT 364, "Masterpieces of Italian Literature in Translation – From the Middle Ages To Early Modernity." She will start teaching the new version of the

course in spring 2018.

The UA chapter of the Gamma Kappa Alpha National Italian Honor Society was created, and Dr. Jessica Goethals will be in charge.

The Italian Club, advised by Kelsey Guy and Dr. Alessandra Montalbano, is doing well, as is the Italian study abroad program, now in its 26th year and therefore one of the longest standing study abroad programs at UA.

Dr. Romanelli led a group of 21 students to Florence, Italy in summer 2017, assisted by Kelsey Guy.

Italian faculty had a productive research year. Dr. Goethals presented at two conferences, and is managing editor of the journal *I Tatti Studies in*

the Italian Renaissance, published by the University of Chicago Press in collaboration with the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies. She held an eight-month-long Fellowship with the Folger Library and had three publications accepted: a co-translation and critical edition of Margherita Costa, *The Buffoons, A Ridiculous Comedy. A Bilingual Edition*, co-edited and co-translated with Sara Díaz; an article, "The Patronage Politics of Equestrian Ballet: Allegory, Allusion, and Satire in the Courts of Seventeenth-Century Italy and France," forthcoming in *Renaissance Quarterly*; and another article, "The Bizarre Muse: The Literary Persona of Margherita Costa," in *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

Dr. Montalbano published an article, "Snatched from the World: The Phenomenology of Captivity in Italian Ransom Kidnapping," in *Modern Language Notes*, and

a chapter, “Un’emergenza lunga trent’anni: lo Stato e I sequestri di persona a scopo di estorsione,” in *Stato, stato di diritto e violenza nell’Italia repubblicana* (Donzelli Editore, 2017).

Dr. Romanelli authored two articles, now under consideration for publication, and presented at national and international conferences. Dr. Romanelli is also working on a book manuscript, *Pasolini Screenwriter for Fellini*. For this project, she received research support through the University of Alabama Research Grants Committee, for archival research trips to Sion (Switzerland), Bologna (IT), Bloomington (Indiana), Rome, and Rimini (Fellini’s birthplace and the site of the *Fondazione*



Federico Fellini).

JAPANESE

The Japanese program has been extremely popular in the South despite that it is one of the toughest in the country. Several students and graduates passed the difficult level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. Approximately 20 graduates who studied Japanese at UA are in Japan either now teaching English or working for Japanese companies. This year alone, four graduates passed the prestigious Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (financially

supported by the Japanese government).

The number of out-of-state students taking online Japanese has significantly increased. One student is taking the class while living in Japan. Japanese outreach activities led by Chika Kobayashi, Laurie Arizumi and Yukiko Gilbert continue with the help of students of Japanese going to nearby middle/high schools to introduce various topics in Japanese culture by doing hands-on activities.

RUSSIAN

The Russian program continues to grow, judging by the most recent numbers of declared minors: 44! Both Russian 201 and 202 classes this past year were the largest ever taught on this campus. Moreover,

more students than ever are planning to study abroad. In addition to Maria Huryn (see Student News), the following students will study Russian abroad next year: Matthew Barret, Michelle Degeorge, Megan Zecher plan to study on the American Institute for Foreign Study program in St. Petersburg in the fall. Amanda Filardo will participate in the Amer-

ican Council of Teachers of Russian program in Kazakhstan. Joseph Forcherio and Neil Quigley will study abroad in the spring semester.

In faculty news, Dr. Andrew Drozd presented “Memories of Polemics Past: Koznyshev and the Hostile Critic in *Anna Karenina*,” at the Conference of the Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies in Washington, D.C. An expanded version of the paper was accepted for publication in *Tolstoy Studies Journal*. Dr. Drozd also presented “Čelakovský and Pushkin: The Unknown Translation” at the

Southern Conference on Slavic Studies in Alexandria, VA.

SPANISH

Spanish faculty continue to achieve success. Dr. Connie Janiga-Perkins along with Mary Alexander, Emma Annette Wilson, and graduate students of the fall 2016 SP 515 class had their work accepted for presentation at the UA Digitorium International Conference. Their presentation, “The Madre Maria de San Jose (1656-1719) Digital Project: Her ‘Other’ Vida,” was delivered at the session on “Teaching Historic Manuscripts With TEI.”

Professor Moody organized a panel at the 2017 conference of the Latin American Studies Association in Lima, Perú, where she presented a paper, “What Can We Do With A Scrapbook? Visual Memory, Professional Networks, and the *Album personal* of Aurora Caceres.”

Dr. O’Rourke, along with co-author Kim Potowski, published an article titled “Phonetic outcomes of dialect contact: Variation among Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and ‘MexiRicans’ in Chicago” in *Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics*. Dr. O’Rourke was also awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Spanish.

Dr. Sarah Moody published an article with the *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*, titled “*Women of Paris*, World Literature, and a Counter-Mythology of the Metropolis in Manuel Ugarte’s Early Literary Work.”

Dr. Ana Corbalán co-edited a book with Lorraine Ryan titled *The Dynamics of Masculinity in Contemporary Spanish Culture* (Routledge, 2017). Congratulations, also, to Dr. Corbalán, for her promotion to Full Professor.

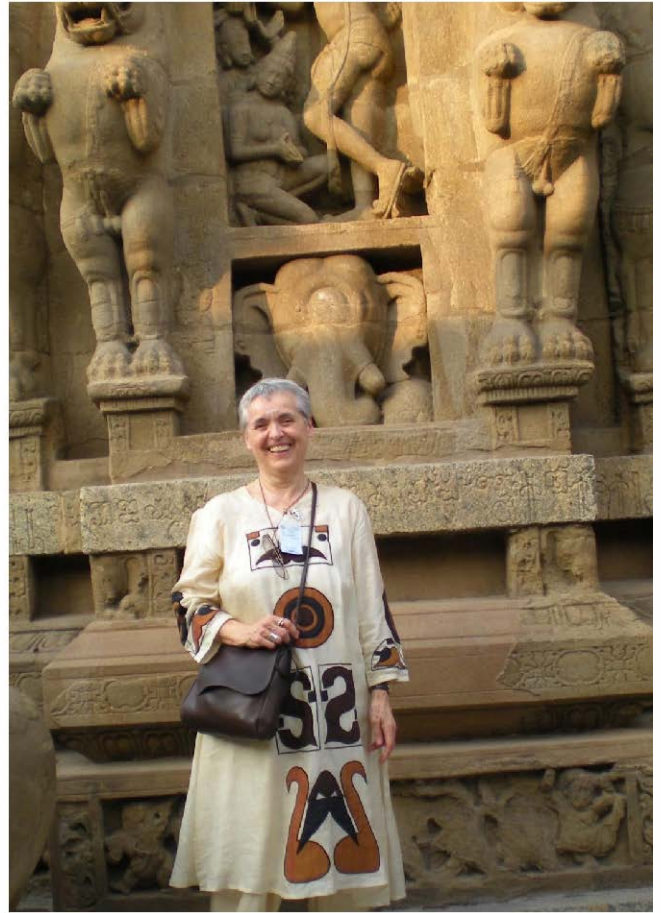
Dr. Michael Schnepf retired after working at UA for thirty-two years. Dr. Schnepf, whose research, teaching, and service contributed so much to the Spanish program, will be sorely missed by colleagues and students alike.



Congratulations to Alyssia Miller on the Reza Ordoubadian Award for best student presentation at the 2017 meeting of the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics!

Our esteemed colleagues, **Dr. Michael Schnepf**, Professor of Spanish, and **Dr. Metka Zupančič**, Professor of French, will be greatly missed as they embark on their hard-earned and well-deserved retirements. Dr. Schnepf will not only be remembered for his ground-breaking work on the nineteenth-century Spanish author, Galdòs, but also for his annual spring-time “fishing” trip to Cuba, where he helped to establish what has become one of the College of Arts and Sciences favorite initiatives for study abroad and collaborative research with the University of Havana.

Dr. Zupančič, known for her prolific publishing on contemporary French



and Francophone female authors and myth criticism, is also one of the department’s very own knights (we have two)! In 2008, she became *Chevalier dans les Palmes Académiques* (Knight in the Order of Academic Palms), an honor bestowed by the French government on distinguished academics. Wishing these two the very best as they pursue their next adventures. **¡Buena suerte! and Bonne chance!**

The Department of Modern Languages & Classics is grateful for generous support from its donors: The Strong family, for support of the Japanese program; Dr. Donald E. Hall and the Sontheimer family for support of the German program, including the Dr. Donald E. Hall Annual German Scholarship and the Dr. Donald E. Hall German Study Abroad Scholarship Fund; the many individuals who support the Barbara Fischer Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund, with special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Braxton Thrash; and Hyosung USA for its generous support of the Korean program.



For information on supporting the Department of Modern Languages & Classics, contact Dr. Douglas Lightfoot, Chair, at lightfoot@ua.edu

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THE GRADLINGS PODCAST

"You study linguistics? What is that? How many languages can you speak?"

How many times have you heard this?

Our project was born in the bits and pieces of conversations we had together and with other students that always seemed to lead back to a common theme: there is no platform for students in our field to talk about their interests or share their research.

We created the GradLings podcast for students at any stage to have a space in which they can discuss their experiences about venturing into the world of linguistics and higher education. The program is intended to promote collaboration among like-minded, passionate, and enthusiastic linguists and highlight their contributions to our evolving field and raise social awareness about what linguistics is all about.

We release new episodes every two weeks along with various posts on our social media pages about current headlines in linguistics and our own adventures through the challenging and ever-changing world of grad school. You can expect to learn some pretty cool things with us and probably have a bit of a laugh during your study break or with your morning coffee.

<https://www.gradlingpodcast.com>

La Última Letra

Who we are:

We are the Spanish Graduate Student Organization at UA.

What we do:

We provide travel funding to our members.

We bring guest speakers to campus.

We have joint activities with faculty to facilitate good relationships.



La Última Letra is pleased to present the guest speaker for Spring 2018. We will be hosting [Dr. Bernard Issa](#) from UT Knoxville to give a talk related to his research in eye-tracking within second language acquisition. View flyer and abstract: [LUL-Dr. Issa flyer](#)

Three Minute Thesis (3MT)

Three Minute Thesis is a research communication competition that challenges master's and doctoral students to present a compelling oration on their thesis topic and its significance in three minutes. The competition develops academic, presentation and research communication skills and supports the development of research students' capacity to explain their research in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

MLC had a finalist in the 3MT in the fall of 2017, PhD student, Alyssia Miller. Congratulations Alyssia!

