



The Polyglot Fall 2021

Living and Learning in a (Mostly) Virtual Year

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Like many language programs across the globe, we continued to adapt to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-2021 academic year. Classrooms in Oakley Hall and across campus were set to half capacity in Fall 2020. To work with this limitation and to serve our students who could attend courses on campus, we split many classes into sections, with each section meeting in person on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. When not attending in person, students could view a livestream of each day's lesson, thanks to newly installed video cameras.

An essential part of language proficiency is interaction. Fortunately, our faculty members are very skilled at leveraging instructional technology, which is already a major part of our pedagogic approach to language learning. To simulate the kinds of interactions and feedback that are found in our classrooms, some of our faculty used online tools such as Zoom



or FlipGrid, which allows users to share (and respond to) short video messages, while others used VoiceThread, an application that helps learners collaborate via video, voice and text comments. If more assistance was needed, students could visit a faculty member's virtual office hours via platforms like Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Also, all tutoring was moved online. These virtual options helped keep our students engaged and on track.

Our department has had to change many of the things that make our program special. Study abroad programs were still on hold during the 2020-2021 academic year. Once travel is safe, we hope that our students will again be able to experience French, German and Spanish-speaking cultures firsthand. In the meantime, we

are working hard to keep the Euro Café, our student lounge and study room, open and safe so students can sit, relax and connect here on campus. This space is essential for fostering a sense of community among our students, and for that reason, we renovated the Euro Cafe this summer. The more contemporary and flexible chairs and desks will help students converse, study and recharge, whether social distancing must be observed in the future or not.

Although it might be unclear what the 2021-2022 academic year has in store, I remain confident that our faculty will adjust accordingly to support our students and help them succeed no matter what.



See p. 3 for more on Euro Café renovations!

Face Mask Design Contest Held in Fall

As the pandemic continued into Fall 2020, the DFL tried to find ways to engage students without in-person contact. One such effort was a face mask design contest for FL students. An international theme was required for the design.

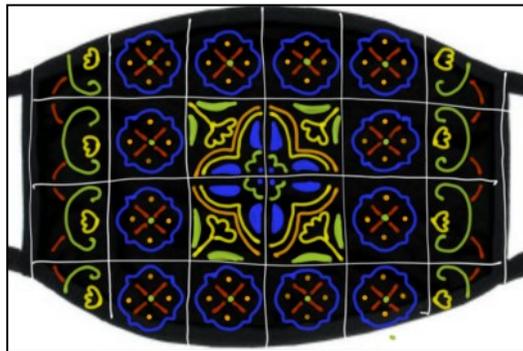
FL majors and club members voted online for their favorite design among those submitted. They chose Gioconda Duran's design as the winner (pictured right). Duran, a senior Spanish major who is pursuing teaching licensure, was awarded a Starbucks gift card and masks for herself and her family. A free mask was also offered to each foreign language major.



Gioconda Duran's winning entry in mask design contest.

Runners-up in the contest were Salem Mochow, biology and chemistry major and Spanish minor, and Sydney Edwards, German major. You can see their beautiful designs below.

Thanks to all those who submitted designs and/or participated in the voting process. This contest added a bright spot to a semester somewhat clouded by the ongoing pandemic.



Salem Mochow's mask is based on intricate designs of Mexican tile work.



Sydney Edwards chose an international dance theme for her design.

Want to Help Current FL Students at Tech?

Students need financial support now more than ever. To make a gift that benefits FL students, go to www.tntech.edu/cas/fl and click on the gold "Make a Gift to Foreign Languages" button or contact us at languages@tntech.edu or 931-372-3432 for more information.

No gift is too small. Our students will thank you, and so will we!

Send Us Your Info!

Are you a Tennessee Tech FL alum? We want to hear from you! Email updates and photos to: languages@tntech.edu or mail hard copies to: TTU DFL, P.O. Box 5061, Cookeville, TN 38505.



Popular Euro Café Gets a Major Makeover

Thanks in part to the generosity of our donors and the College of Arts and Sciences, this summer we were able to replace most of the furniture in the Euro Café, our student study room/lounge. We believe that returning students who are taking a language course in Oakley Hall will find this space even more inviting and useful!

The Euro Café is the perfect place for a quick snack or lunch in-between classes or for small study groups to meet for language practice. The space has always been heavily utilized by students.

The concept of the Euro Café originated in the early 2000s, when Dr. Phillip Campana, then-chair of the DFL and German professor, and a group of FL students decided to renovate some available space for the use of students. (Note: one of these students was

Camron Rudd, speaker at the Alpha Mu Gamma induction; see p. 8!) The room is now in a different location and has gone through many changes over the last 20 years. We're happy that the Euro Café lives on and that it can continue to be enjoyed by students who find themselves on second-floor Oakley Hall!



Movie nights with French, German or Spanish films were shown in the Euro Café in the past. This is the original sign that students made and hung over the door of the Café.

Faculty Selected Accomplishments for 2020-2021



Debbie Barnard was awarded two QEP/EDGE grants to redesign assessments, activities and projects for FREN 3010 and FREN 3112. She had one article accepted for publication in *Dialogues francophones*, and submitted two others for peer-review. She also continued to serve as academic advisor to all French majors and as faculty advisor to Avant-Garde (French Club). Barnard continues to be an active member of the advisory board of the Tennessee World Affairs Council, where she has helped organize international career panels at Tech and across the region.

Mark Groundland joined faculty and students from the College of Nursing



in an initiative called ESTAR (Education, Support, Training, Action and Results to Improve Health), a comprehensive program to engage the Hispanic population in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee on issues related to COVID-19. He continues to index journals for the Modern Languages Association International Bibliography and is nearing completion of his three-year term on its advisory board. Over the last year, he made some strides in his long-term research project comparing 16th-century race relations in Spain to con-

temporary racial politics in the U.S.



In Fall 2020, **Julia Gruber** was awarded a QEP/EDGE Grant to inject more creative inquiry elements into her GERM 3010 class. In October she virtually presented a research poster at the 45th Coalition of Women in German conference in Sewanee, Tennessee. That month, she also participated in a webinar on Audre Lorde's work in Berlin, and in November she was a participant in a virtual lecture with Sharon Dodua Otoo organized through the *Goethe Haus*. After having two book reviews accepted this past year, she has a very robust research agenda planned for the upcoming semesters.

In August 2020, **Cristina Humita** officially started her new



position as lecturer of Spanish. To support her students and their learning more effectively, she developed a number of new online activities and assessments. Along with Gruber and Kazakova, Humita started an Instagram account ("saludsantegesundheit") where students and faculty shared pictures of things and activities (in their respective language of study) that were keeping

them sane and happy during the pandemic. In Fall 2020, Humita represented the DFL at a Preview Day event, where she met with prospective students and informed them how foreign languages can help them succeed professionally.



Shortly after joining the DFL this past fall, **Elena Kazakova** completed training in Tech's Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program. To support her students, she created a number of interactive videos and online resources. In a university-wide survey distributed this past year, she was one of 182 faculty named by students as someone who is excelling in the classroom regardless of delivery mode. In Spring 2021, Kazakova was the inaugural recipient of a Faculty Excellence in Online Teaching Award from the Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence. She is currently redesigning the lower-level French sequence around OER (Open Educational Resources) to lower student expenses and improve learning outcomes.

In Fall 2020, **Michael Olsen** was named by students on the



CITL Campus Student Survey as a faculty mem-

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ber who excelled in the classroom regardless of delivery mode. He also created a new special topics course, “Dialects of the Spanish-Speaking World,” which had 18 students enrolled in it — a large number for such an advanced course. In June, his article entitled “The Effect of Animacy on Object Pronoun Distinction in L2 Spanish” was published in *Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism*. He continues to serve as academic advisor for all foreign language majors who are working toward Tennessee teaching licensure.



In Fall 2020, **Martin Sheehan** won a QEP/EDGE grant to redesign his Business German course around how Germany’s

economy was addressing the global pandemic. He also met with prospective students at several Preview Day events in the Fall. In April 2021, Sheehan and Carrie Collenberg-Gonzalez (Portland State University) submitted the revised draft of their co-edited volume *Moving Frames: Photographs in German Cinema*, which Berghan Books will publish in December 2021. This summer, *Colloquia Germanica* published his article “The Reflex: Group Photography and Ritual in *Pioniere in Ingolstadt*.” He is preparing a co-authored piece on his Twitterbot (@TraklBot) for Routledge’s *Companion to Literary Media*.



Manuel Villalba



had two students selected to present their original research projects at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research 2020 at Montana State University. (Unfortunately, the conference was cancelled due to COVID.) He assisted another student with the application process for the M.A. in Spanish as a Secondary Language at Franklin Institute in Madrid, Spain; the student was accepted into the program. During the pandemic, Villalba continued to look for grants and other funding opportunities, awards and job openings which would allow students to travel abroad once that becomes possible again. He also continued to serve as faculty advisor for the Spanish Club, Amigos.

DFL Administrative Associate Retiring from Tennessee Tech



Pam Kirkpatrick, administrative associate in the Department of Foreign Languages for the past 16 years, will retire from Tech in early January 2022.

“I’ve been very fortunate to work with outstanding supervisors, faculty members and students in this department,” Kirkpatrick said. “I consider myself blessed to have met so many wonderful people.” She said she

especially enjoys interacting with FL majors and student workers, and with other staff members across campus.

“I’ll miss all the great people, as well as the beauty and diversity of the campus,” she said. She added that one of her favorite parts of the job is helping produce a new issue of *The Polyglot* each year.

While working at Tech, Kirkpatrick earned a Mas-

ter’s degree in English Literature. She received her B.S. degree in English-Journalism at Tech in 1977 and took part in the first commencement to be held in the then-new Hooper-Eblen Center.

Kirkpatrick has two adult daughters and sons-in-law and three young grandchildren (Silas, 8; Opal, 8; and Arlo, 3). She looks forward to spending time with family and also doing more reading and writing.

Five FL Students Complete Capstone Projects

Every Foreign Languages major, as well as Secondary Education majors with a foreign language concentration, must complete a rigorous capstone project during their senior year. Here are the 2020-2021 FL and SEED/FL capstone students, their topics and the faculty with whom they worked:

Ulises Avendano (with Groundland): *Como el fútbol beneficia el mundo* [How Soccer Benefits the World]

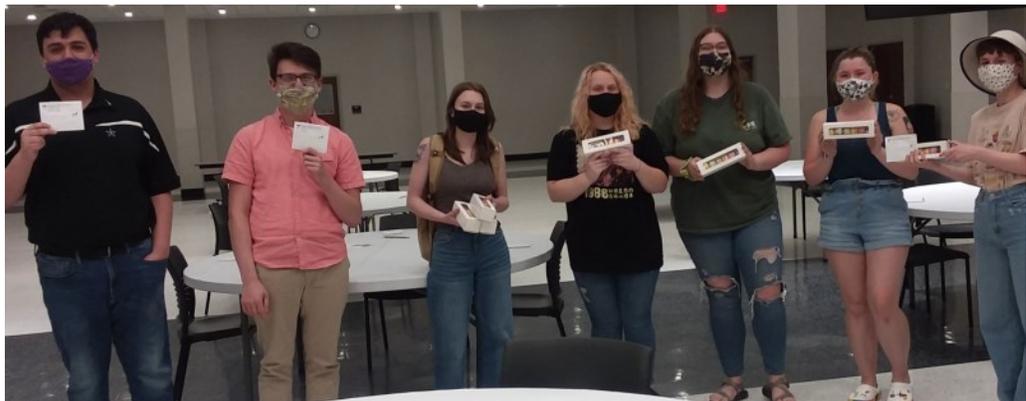
Sarah Greer (with Olsen): *Las acomodaciones para las clases de lenguas extranjeras* [Accommodations for Foreign Languages Classes]

Olivia Mason (with Olsen): *El valor y el rol de aplicaciones de estudiar lenguas* [The Value and Role of Applications for Studying Languages]

Phillip Vinson (with Groundland): *Don Quijote como paciente de la fisioterapia* [Don Quijote: My Physical Therapy Patient]

Jordan Wright (with Gruber): *Böse Hexe, doofe Prinzessin?: Charakteranalyse und Entwicklungsgeschichte zweier Märchenfiguren* [Evil Witches, Dumb Princesses?: A Character Analysis and Developmental History of Two Fairy Tale Figures]

These students graduated in May. Avendano, Mason and Vinson earned B.A. degrees in Spanish; Wright, a B.A. in German; and Greer, a B.S. in Education with a Spanish concentration. Congratulations!



Students show prizes received during Avant-Garde's Trivia Night in Spring 2021.

FL Clubs Once Again Face Challenging Times for Events

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing into the fall and spring, our foreign language clubs faced another challenging year. Avant-Garde, the French Club, was able to provide a couple of opportunities for interaction for students while maintaining health precautions.

Avant-Garde hosted a Trivia Night during spring semester in which students com-

peted in teams to answer questions about French geography, language, history and culture. Prizes included gift cards to local restaurants, such as Father Tom's Pub, and locally made macarons.

Avant-Garde also sponsored a movie night. The students screened *Une vie de chat* (A Cat in Paris) and then enjoyed a lively

post-viewing discussion afterwards.

Our student organizations look forward to resuming more activities during 2021-2022. For more information about Amigos (Spanish Club), Der Deutsche Klub (German Club) or Avant-Garde, contact the Dept. of Foreign Languages at languages@tntech.edu or 931-372-3432.

FL Alumni News

Emily Alligood (B.A. in Spanish, B.S. in Biology, May 2020) has been living in Madrid, Spain, since October 2020, participating in the Council on International Educational Exchange Teach Abroad Program. She has assisted teachers in biology, music, history and English courses as an expert English speaker. "This experience has been a dream come

true for me," Alligood said, "and I wouldn't have con-



sidered it without my experience in the Department of Foreign Languages at Tennessee Tech." In Spring 2021, Alligood was also accepted into the Language and Culture Assistance Program in Spain, which is sponsored by Spain's Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. *¡Que sigas adelante, Emily!* Keep up the good work!

Holly LaFever (B.A. in German, Dec. 2009) earned an M.A. degree from the School of International Service at American University in Intercultural and International Communication. In lieu of a thesis, she completed a practicum entitled *Cultural Diplomacy and International Communication*. On a team with four other graduate students, she

worked with the World Affairs Councils of America to determine best practices for engaging young professionals for all 90 member councils across the U.S. She is currently interning remotely for a non-profit think tank, the European Centre for International Political Economy in Brussels, Belgium, working under Jimmyn Parc



and Patrick Messerlin for the organization's Korea Project Program. Congratulations!



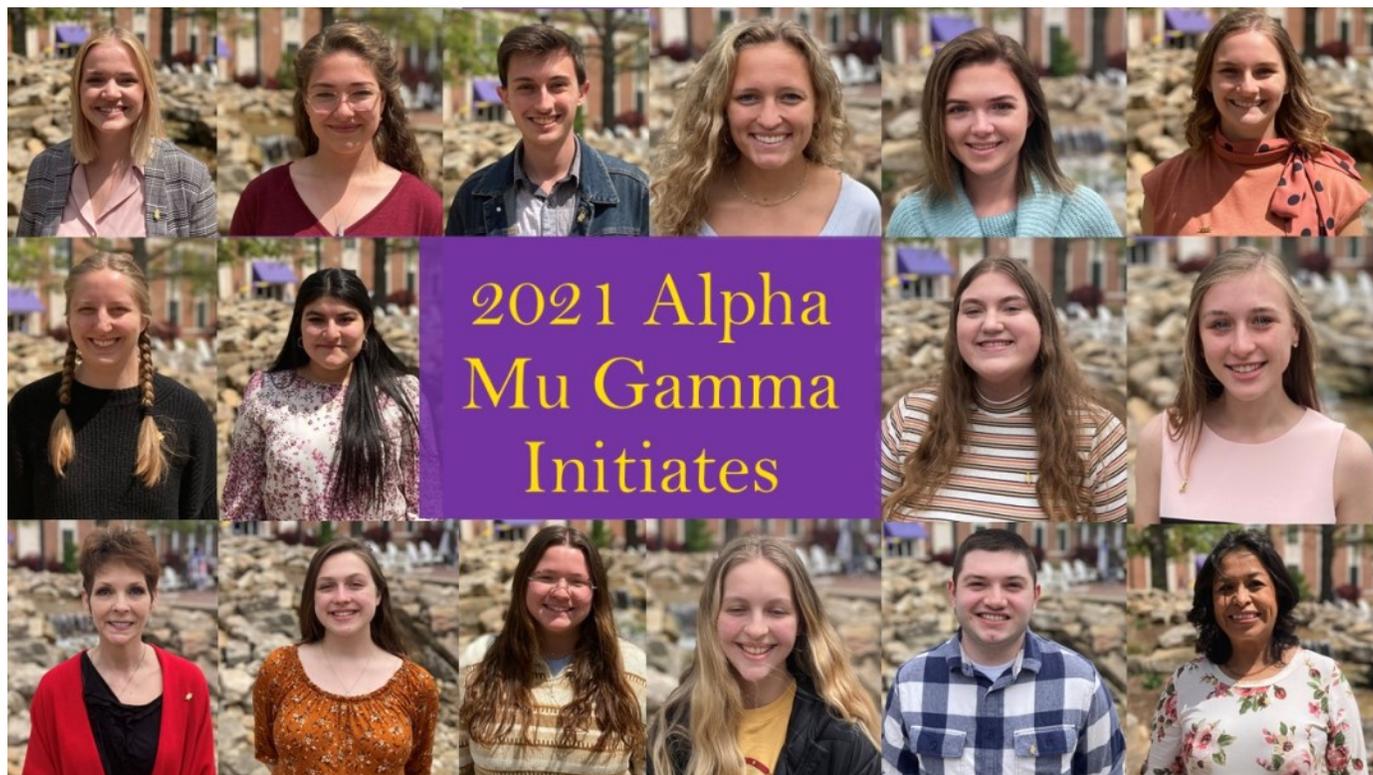
Meghan O'Donoghue (B.A. in French and B.S. in Political Science, 2014) recently completed all required exams for a Ph.D. in French at the University of Virginia.

She is currently starting a dissertation on agriculture, education and systems of knowledge in colonial-era French West Africa. We wish her the best!

James White (B.A. in French and German and B.S. in Biology, 2009) is currently a Ph.D. student in the history and classics department of the University of Alberta. He is focusing on religious studies in his thesis, which he

plans to defend in September. He was recently featured in a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation podcast and article which can be accessed at cbc.ca/radio/ideas. Congratulations and best wishes!





Beginning top left, from left to right: Alea Harrison, Linda Mae Stegall, John M. Clark, Anna Croxall, Taylor Liggett, Sarah Jo Pendergrass, Emma Macayla Jones, Veronica Gonzalez, Jessica Mckenzie Burton, Emily Grace Barnett, Nancy Rose Webb, Aleysah P. Dyer, Charis Littell, Hailey Kincer, Jacob Hayden Gentry, Gioconda Duran.

Ceremony Held for Alpha Mu Gamma Inductees

A M Γ Eighteen students and one faculty member were inducted into Eta Psi, the Tennessee Tech chapter of Alpha Mu Gamma, the national foreign languages honor society, on April 22. Due to the waning but ongoing pandemic, social distancing measures were followed and face masks were required, but everyone involved was grateful to be able to have an in-person ceremony this year.

Camron Rudd (2005, B.A. in German and B.S. in Mechanical Engineering)

addressed the new inductees. Rudd, president of Hörmann LLC, was instrumental in that company's addition of a satellite location in middle Tennessee. Hörmann is a nationally recognized manufacturer of garage doors and openers, which has distribution centers in several states.

Since a ceremony was not held in 2020 due to the pandemic, students who joined Alpha Mu Gamma last spring were invited to take

part in this year's event. The 2021 inductees, as well as 2020 inductees who chose to participate in the ceremony this year, and the language(s) in which each qualified for membership are:

French

Bethany Allen
Hailey Kincer
Jessica Mckenzie Burton

German

John M. Clark
Nancy Rose Webb (2020)
Taylor Liggett (2020)

Spanish

Alea Harrison (2020)

Aleysah P. Dyer
Anna Croxall
Charis Littell
Emily Grace Barnett
Emma Macayla Jones
Gioconda Duran (also Geman)
Jacob Hayden Gentry
Lydia Cooke
Linda Mae Stegall
Sarah Jo Pendergrass
Veronica Gonzalez (also French)

Faculty

Dr. Elena Kazakova

Congratulations to each of you for this achievement! Best wishes in all your future endeavors.