

LANGUAGE LINKS

Spring 2017

Department of
Modern Language
Studies students,
front row: Harleigh
Ortman, Savannah
Kerns, Julia Snyder,
Michelle Vargas.
back row: Laura
Berkel, Alex Green,
Sarah Shiley, Luz
Alva-de la Rosa



MLS Honors Its Graduates

On May 2, 2017, the Department of Modern Language Studies held a ceremony to recognize outstanding graduates with departmental awards.



Spanish Award Sarah Shiley with
Dr. Nancy Zimmerman



Linda Oswald-Bogert Award
Julia Snyder with Dr. Jesús Rodríguez



German Award Laura Berkel with
Drs. Greg Hanson and Lynn M. Kutch

HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTIONS

SIGMA DELTA PI



above: inductees, current officers, and former officers of Sigma Delta Pi

Spanish majors and minors were inducted into the KU chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, National Hispanic Honor

Society, on May 2, 2017. The Department of Modern Language Studies is proud to honor their

achievements in Spanish and Hispanic Studies, as well as their overall academic success!

DELTA PHI ALPHA



above, l-r: Harleigh Ortman, Alex Green

On Tuesday, May 2, 2017, Harleigh Ortman and Alex Green were inducted into Delta Phi Alpha, the National German Honor Society, which "seeks to recognize excellence in the study of German and to provide an incentive for higher scholarship." Dr. Christine Núñez, chair of Modern Language Studies, was also inducted as an honorary member.

Sigma Delta Pi Inductees (alphabetical list)

Laura Berkel
Verenice Cervantes
Mariel Cordero-Ledesma
Kimberly DeLaTorre
Zoe Hudzik
Alaina Klause
Justin Maurer
Jonathan Orellano
Nektaria Papadopoulos
Sophia Rubio
Suzanne Selman
Angelina Sirak
Felicia Trievel
Michelle Vargas

MLS Graduate Goes to Spain for Graduate Studies

Michelle Vargas, a May 2017 graduate with a BA in Spanish, will be starting her post-graduate education in September through the BEDA Bilingual Program of the Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid, Spain. She will apply her knowledge of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures as she studies second language methodology. She will also be working as an English language assistant with the program. When sharing this exciting news with her professors, Michelle wrote: "I want to thank all of you for being a source of inspiration for me to explore a possible career in education." All of the MLS faculty are proud of Michelle's accomplishments while she was here at KU and have no doubt that she will continue to excel with her post-graduate studies in Spain. ¡Felicitaciones!



"I want to thank all of you for being a source of inspiration for me to explore a possible career in education."

-Michelle Vargas



above: l-r Michelle Vargas and Jorge González Perdomo

German Students to Spend Junior Year Abroad



Two German majors will spend junior year abroad in Germany.

Erica Reichl (*l*) will participate in KU's exchange program at the University of Hildesheim in Hildesheim, Germany.

Elyse Waldie (*r*) will study in Munich, Germany, as part of Wayne State University's Junior Year in Munich at the Ludwig Maximilian University.

left: Reichl and Waldie wore their *Dirndls* for Halloween, October 2016.



Examining the Melting Pot

April 20, 2017
MSU 218A

9:30-11:00— Viewing of the documentary “Don’t Tell Anyone (No le digas a nadie)” and a follow-up discussion with students.

A film about the struggles of Angy Rivera, an undocumented immigrant, and her fight for justice

11:00-12:00— Panel discussion : “Examining the Melting Pot”
Join KU students, faculty, and community partners for a discussion of cross-culture experiences in the United States





Examining the Melting Pot

On Thursday, April 20th, the Department of Modern Language Studies and the Organization for Latino Awareness, with support from ACE, hosted an all-day event: “Examining the Melting Pot.” The event featured the documentary *Don’t Tell Anyone*, about the remarkable journey of an undocumented young activist, Angy Rivera, from poverty in rural Colombia to the front page of *The New York Times*. After

viewing the film, the audience participated in a discussion hosted by a panel of KU students and faculty, along with community members with diverse experiences and perspectives on immigration. Approximately 120 (K-12) students from Northwest Middle School, Muhlenberg High School and Kutztown High School attended the event, which was followed by lunch and a campus tour.



MLS is award-winning!

On Wednesday, March 29, 2017, three members of the Department of Modern Language Studies were honored for their excellence at the “College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean’s Awards Ceremony.”

Laura Berkel (2017) and Shantel Rios (2019) were both recognized by Dr. Beougher (CLAS Dean) for being “Star Students.” Laura is pursuing, with academic excellence, a double major (a BA in German Studies and a BA in Philosophy) and a Spanish minor, and she has participated in the Hildesheim University study abroad experience. Dr. Lynn M. Kutch has described Laura as the “ideal student” full of genuine curiosity and a love of learning. As one of the first students to travel to Hildesheim, she is also not afraid to take risks.

Shantel is a BS-Biochemistry major with a Spanish minor, and has excelled in all of her courses. According to Dr. Nancy Zimmerman, who nominated her, Shantel is an ideal learner who always performs



her projects and assignments with dedication and collaboration and who is also self-motivated to avail herself of myriad resources to tackle academic challenges.

The event culminated with the announcement that Dr. Lynn Kutch was awarded the “Dean’s Outstanding Faculty Award 2017.”



Dr. Beougher noted in his presentation that Dr. Kutch more than fulfilled the Award criteria, which are: consistent and conscientious commitment to student success in and out of the classroom, support of student research/internships, helping students in and out of the classroom, focus on student learning experiences and student involvement, and respect of one’s peer in and beyond one’s own department. Dr. Dawn Slack, who nominated her, averred that Dr. Kutch is an exemplary member of CLAS, KU and the greater community and that she epitomized the Award, as her numerous student, alumni, and colleague letters of support attest.

Congratulations to Laura, Shantel, and Dr. Kutch!



above: Shantel Rios and Dr. Beougher
right: Laura Berkel and Dr. Beougher



KU College of Education 7th Grade Campus Visit Day



above: Mason Smith, BSEd German and Mathematics, speaks with seventh grade visitors from Nitschmann Middle School in Bethlehem.

Mason Smith and Dr. Lynn M. Kutch represented the Department of Modern Language Studies at a KU College of Education program on April 21, 2017. Seventh graders from the area visited campus for the day.

Smith said this of his experience: "I had the opportunity to speak to several students from across the Lehigh Valley about their future plans. Middle school is a critical time for students to begin planning their education, as many schools don't offer language courses before then. By fielding the students' various answers, it was easy to see that many of the students were afraid of pursuing language after high school until they had a chance to hear about how important foreign languages are in our globalized society. I am very glad that I had the opportunity to address any concerns that they had, and I hope in that in the future I will be able to see them as Golden Bears!"

About the day from Dr. Carol Watson, associate professor of Education: "127 7th graders from Nitschmann Middle School in Bethlehem visit campus for the day. Led by members of the KU Middle Level Educators student club, they tour the campus, visit with professors, learn about student clubs and activities, chat with some athletes and learn about sports opportunities, see a planetarium show, and goof off with Avalanche at lunch. We hope they will think of higher ed as a real possibility after visiting."

German Students Gain a First-Hand Perspective

This past semester, students in Dr. Kutch's German 212 (Composition and Conversation II) had the opportunity to learn from and speak with Uwe Klemm, an English teacher in Jena, Germany. Klemm grew up in the former East Germany, a topic that was covered extensively in the class and about which the students wanted to know more.

German major Elyse Waldie said: "I think it's so wonderful that we got the chance to talk to him. Not everyone gets the chance to practice with a native speaker and it helps tremendously. Overall a really pleasant experience and he was very nice!"



above: Elyse Waldie and Uwe Klemm, joining the group via Skype from Jena, Germany.



*above and top: MLS faculty and student attendees
top, far right: Rudy Téllez*

KU Alum and Interpreter Visits KU

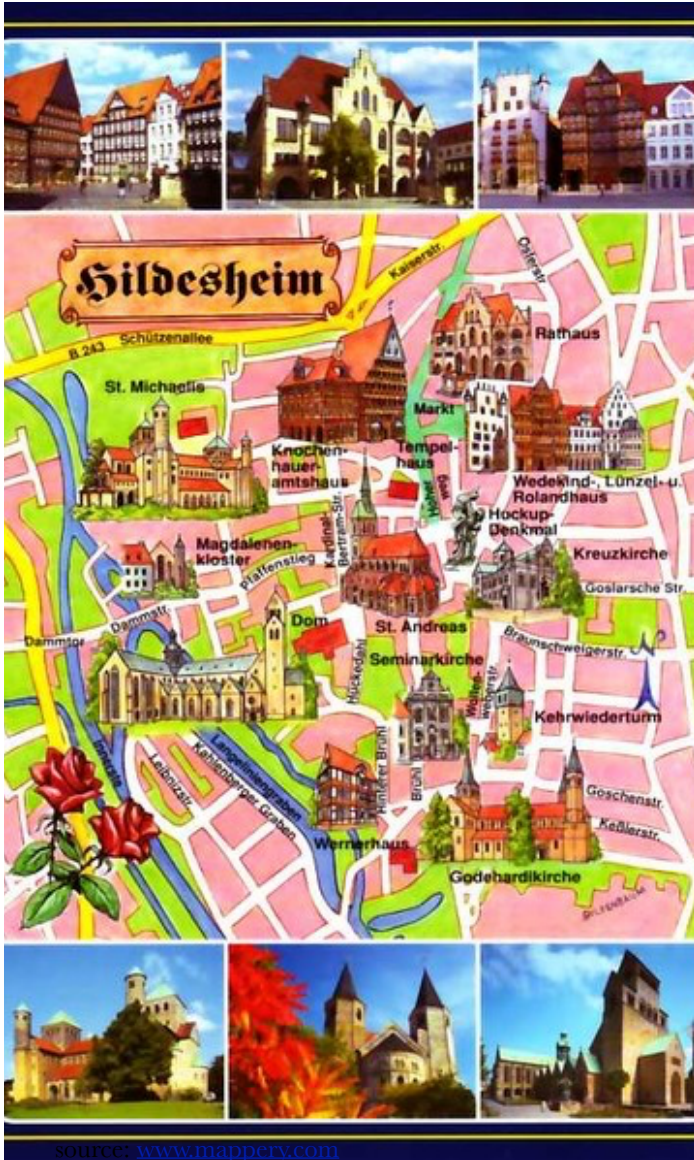
On Friday March 3, 2017, the Department of Modern Language Studies was extremely fortunate to have translator, board certified interpreter, and KU alum Rodolfo P. Téllez (Rudy) give two sessions on the Translation & Interpreting profession to Spanish and German students. Téllez began with a personal story, describing how it was his mother who encouraged him to use his bilingual skills. He then went on to

explain his fascinating work as conference interpreter, for FIFA executive meetings, the U.S. Congress, as well as interpreting for court cases. Additionally he has worked in the operating room interpreting medical procedures for resident doctors in the Dominican Republic. The students were also given a practical demonstration of the tools he uses for simultaneous interpretation.

Translation versus Interpretation

- Spoken versus written: Interpretation is the transference of meaning between spoken languages, while translation is the transference of meaning between written languages.
- Real time versus delayed: Interpreting occurs in real time.

Familiar Faces in New Places



German majors Shannon McCarthy and Josh Sell (currently on KU's program at Hildesheim University) met up with KU alum German and Spanish major Peter Murray, who happened to be visiting Hildesheim. *above, l-r: Murray, Sell, McCarthy.*



Dr. Derek Mace, assistant professor of Psychology, met up in Hildesheim with Lauren Verna, BSEd German and English. Mace was also visiting his colleague Dr. Armin Rott (University of Hamburg).

MLS and the KU Foundation Establish a Hildesheim Travel Fund

In Spring 2017, the Department of Modern Language Studies, in collaboration with the Kutztown University Foundation, established a Hildesheim Travel Fund. The goal is to offer students studying at the University of Hildesheim for the semester or year up to \$1,000 in assistance for transatlantic travel. Please contact John Hults (hults@kutztownufoundation.org) for information on how to contribute.

KU FOUNDATION & ALUMNI RELATIONS

April 1, 2017

Those of you fortunate enough to study abroad during your time at Kutztown University (KU) may remember the feeling of not wanting to return home—and of wanting to visit your second home abroad again as often as you could. You might also remember how fulfilling it was to discover that you were able to use and improve your German skills every day.

In 2014, the German section of the Modern Language Studies Department and the International Office at KU began an exchange program with Hildesheim University in Germany. Since its inauguration, the exchange has become the most popular semester or full-year program at the University. Spending a semester or a year abroad has also proven invaluable for our German majors to improve their language skills and their cultural competency.



"My experience at the University of Hildesheim was life-changing, and I couldn't have imagined a better way to immerse myself in the German culture. I was able to make friends and explore new, exciting places, while being able to speak the language I love."

—Laura Beckel, BA German, BA Philosophy, Spanish minor



"Coming to Hildesheim has already proven to be one of the best decisions I've ever made. I'm learning about cultures and viewpoints essentially different from my own, and I'm learning a lot about myself. Hildesheim has stolen a piece of my heart!"

—Lauren Verna, BSEd, English and German

Because this is a KU Study Abroad program, students pay their regular tuition and an often cheaper room and board in Germany. Nonetheless, it would ease students' financial burden if they had some assistance with their transatlantic travel costs.

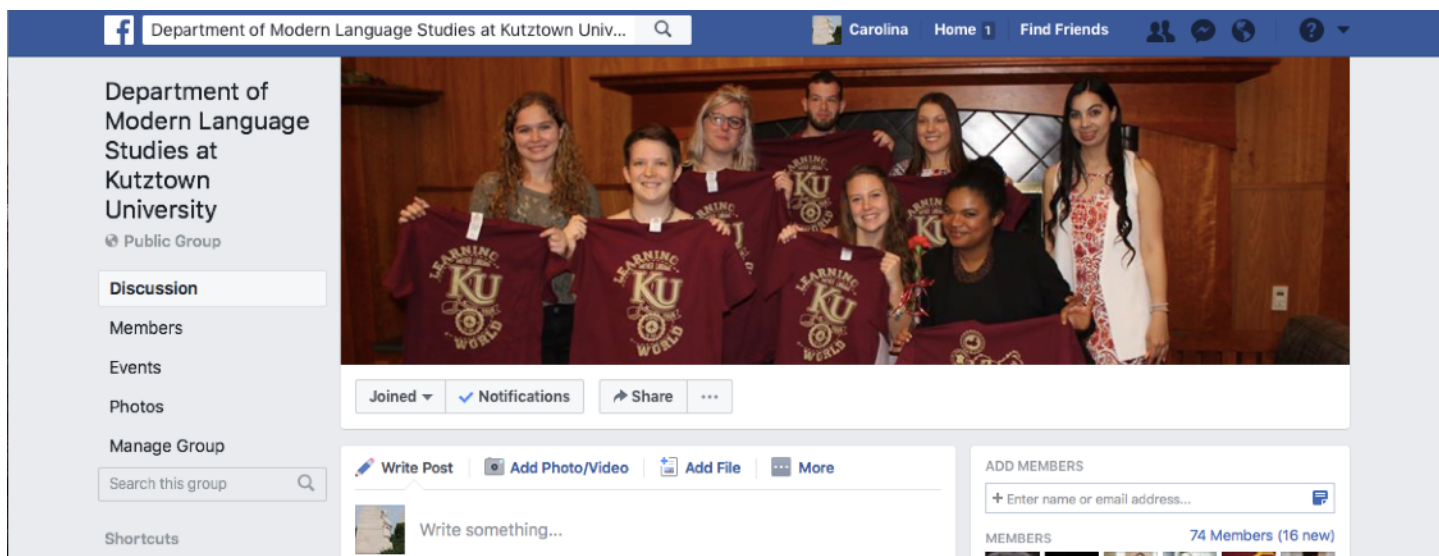
This is the purpose of this appeal: to establish a fund through the Kutztown Foundation that will help students finance the costs of their flights to and from Europe.

Please consider making a one-time or a recurring gift to help current and future students of German fulfill their dreams of studying abroad.

Very sincerely,

John M. Hults
John M. Hults, PhD
Associate Professor of German

KU FOUNDATION & ALUMNI RELATIONS



The Department of Modern Language Studies Facebook page has been quite active since it went live in early May 2017. News of the new Sigma Delta Pi inductees and upcoming graduating seniors commenced the post activities. A couple of our alumni have posted job openings and cultural tidbits. If you haven't joined our page, we recommend you check it out and become a part of the growing family. ¡Que tengan un buen verano!



Other exciting news that was shared was in regards to alumnus Yorman de la Rosa (2016). Yorman is currently working for the district office of Rep. Peter Schweyer as a part-time Legislative Assistant. He will be ending his service to the Commonwealth in September and will then embark on his next life experience, working with the Peace Corp in Morocco for 2 years.

Faculty Student Conference Presentation

Sarah Shiley (BSED Spanish) (pictured behind the purple computer) and her academic advisor and student teacher supervisor, Dr. Nancy Zimmerman (to her right), presented "Upping the OPI: A participatory action plan" in New York City at the annual Northeast Conference on Teaching Foreign Languages (NECTFL) Friday February 10, 2017. Selection to present at the Roundtable Research Forum at this conference is quite selective and competitive. Sarah's research presented a pathway for fellow Spanish and German students to increase their oral proficiency so that they meet KU's (COE and Modern Language Studies) certification requirement of reaching Advanced Low on the ACTFL scale of oral proficiency. K-16 language teachers are expected to conduct 90-95% of their classes (beginning to advanced) in the target language and this level of oral proficiency is necessary for successful instruction of both communicative and cultural objectives.



MLS Summer Destinations



*left: Telfes, Austria above: San José, Costa Rica
below: Valladolid, Spain*



**MLS hosts
Summer
Study
Abroad
Programs
in Southern
Germany
and Austria,
Costa Rica,
and Spain.**

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGE STUDIES AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Christine Coleman Núñez, Department Chair
Ms. Merlene Oswald, Department Secretary

LANGUAGE **LINKS** EDITORIAL BOARD SPRING 2017

Dr. Lynn M. Kutch, Editor-in-Chief, Layout Design
Dr. Dawn Slack, Editorial Board
Dr. Nancy Zimmerman, Editorial Board



colfa.utsa.edu