

LANGUAGE LINKS

AY 2017 2018

photo back l-r:
Josh Sell, BA German, BS Finance; Dr. Kutch, Manuel González, BA Spanish; Alexandra Ramírez, BS Psychology and Spanish for Modern Business Minor; Dr. Nancy Zimmerman; Dr. Dawn Slack; Dr. Christine Núñez.
front, Nicoll Lezano, BS Biology/Pre-Med and Health, Spanish minor.
Not pictured: Allison Conrad, BSEd English, Spanish minor; Kasandra Cruz, BS Biochemistry, Spanish minor



Every spring the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences holds the **Dean's Scholars' Reception** to honor KU's Star Students. Faculty nominate students who have shown exceptional initiative, scholarly growth and academic talent.

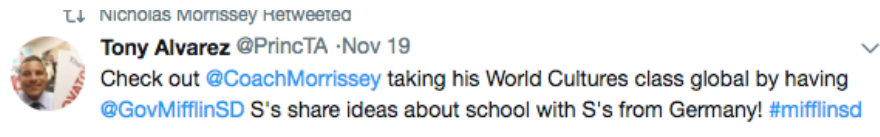




In November, 2017, Shelby Schwoyer (above) organized a Skype conference with Dr. Kutch's colleague in Jena, Germany: Uwe Klemm. She came up with guiding questions in advance of the call and then facilitated the session between the two schools.

"While the technology failed us a bit, I think overall it went fairly well. My students have been talking about it all week and I think it is something that they are going to remember for a while."

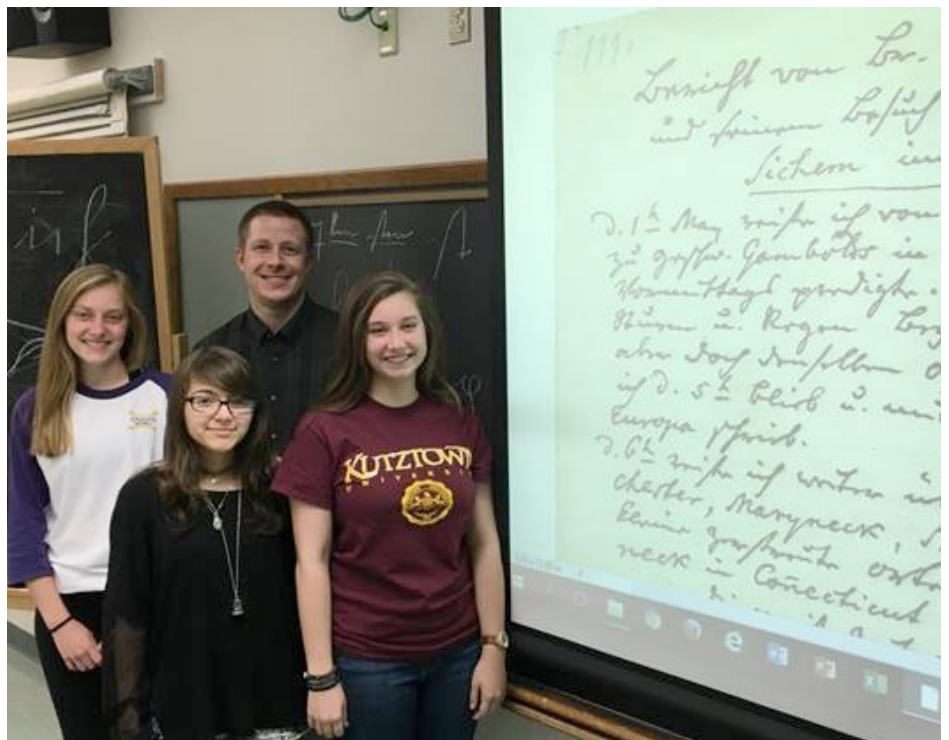
-Shelby Schwoyer, BA History, BSEd, Social Studies, December 2017



Moravian Archives Workshop

In October, 2017, advanced students of German completed two four-hour workshops on reading and writing 18th and 19th-century German script. The workshops were led by Thomas McCullough, assistant archivist at the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, PA, and sponsored by the Department of Modern Language Studies and KU's Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center.

photo l-r: Rachel Hackman, Angeline Gabel, Thomas McCullough, Lauren Verna (all three students BSEd German)



Delta Phi Alpha, National German Honor Society Inducts Seven Students



On Saturday, Dec.9, 2017, seven students were inducted into KU's Sigma Omicron chapter of the National German Honor Society, which promotes excellence in German language learning and encourages cultural awareness.



l to r: Emily Brubaker, BA Communication Studies, Public Relations minor, German minor; Noel Fedeli, BSEd German; Cheryl Vazquez, BA German, BA Political Science; Rachel Hackman, BSEd German; Olivia Harwick, BSEd Art, German minor; Lauren Verna, BSEd German; and Megan Reed, BSEd English.



passhe

Cheryl Vazquez awarded PASSHE Harrisburg Internship Seminar

HARRISBURG, Pa. - During the fall 2017 semester Cheryl Vazquez of Ephrata, PA, worked in the policy office of the state Department of Environmental Protection as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

Vazquez is a senior political science and German major at Kutztown University of

Pennsylvania. She is one of 11 students participating in The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program, which provides students the opportunity to work in all areas of state government while earning a full semester's worth of credits. THIS invites students from each of the 14 State System universities to participate.

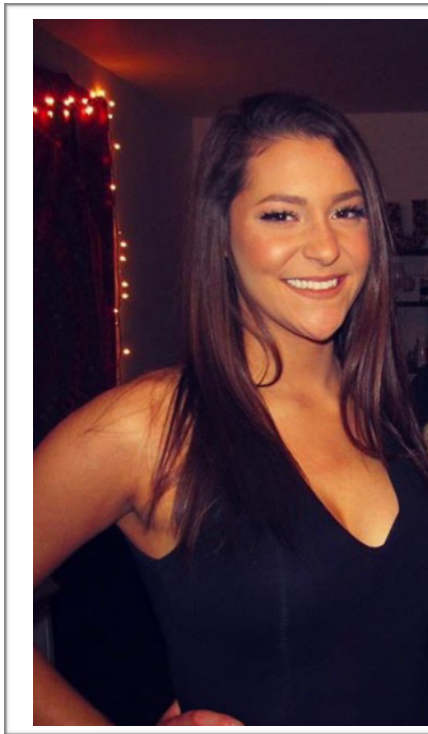
at right:
Cheryl Vazquez,
BA German,
BA Political Science



“It was a great experience. It really let me see first hand how the State government works and what kind of role I could play.”

First Student to Complete the Spanish for Modern Business Minor

The Department of Modern Language Studies is proud to announce that Sierra Berardelli (2018) is the first student to complete the “Spanish for Modern Business Minor!” Ms. Berardelli recognized early in her academic career the value of an interdisciplinary education, and so she chose to complement her BSBA Business Administration/Management major with not just one but two minors: the aforementioned Spanish for Modern Business Minor and an International Studies Minor. As she states, “I believe my degree combines with my interests in traveling internationally and learning about other cultures.”



“The Spanish for Modern Business Minor gives students a great advantage by broadening their language and culture skills while simultaneously learning about the business world in both the United States and Spanish speaking countries.”

-Sierra Berardelli, BSBA Business Administration/Management, Spanish for Business Minor and International Studies Minor

Her love of languages and cultures also led her to participate on the summer study abroad program in Valladolid, Spain, where, in addition to the regular program coursework, she also conducted a multi-faceted research project with Dr. Slack about several aspects of international business. Ms

Berardelli noted that “the Spanish for Modern Business Minor gives students a great advantage by broadening their language and culture skills while simultaneously learning about the business world in both the United States and Spanish speaking countries.”

After graduating from KU, she plans “to work for an international business that gives me the opportunity to travel and use my cross-cultural knowledge.” The Department of Modern Language Studies congratulates Ms. Berardelli on her accomplishments. ¡Adelante!

Student Researcher Shines!

Undergraduate student Kasandra Cruz (2018) is pursuing a BS in Biochemistry with a Spanish Minor, and she applied her interdisciplinary analytical skills to investigating perceptions and performance differences between Native/Heritage learners of Spanish and Non-Native learners of Spanish through a faculty/student research project with Department of Modern Language Studies faculty member Dr. Dawn Slack.

The curiosity (and sometimes the frustration) that Ms. Cruz had as a Heritage speaker studying Spanish developed into a full-blown research project, that was also supported by an Undergraduate Research Grant and a MLS Research Grant (Thank you to both!). Ms. Cruz concluded that while Native/Heritage learners may have an edge with verbal, informal communication, Non-Native learners often have an advantage with written, formal communication. Thus, neither Native/Heritage nor Non-Native learners of Spanish have a true advantage in the Spanish classroom. To combat the misconceptions held by students about linguistic advantage, Ms. Cruz suggested that students work together more frequently and from the very beginning of a course so that they can assess their own strengths and weaknesses accurately and can help each other as peer mentors.

Ms. Cruz’s culminating experience was presenting her original work, "Heritage/Native Speaker Advantage in the Spanish Classroom: Perception v. Reality," at the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association Conference in October 2017. Ms. Cruz was the only undergraduate to have a solo research-based session in the conference, which was attended by a record number of teaching professionals from the entire state. Her session generated great audience feedback, especially considering the applicability of her results and the suggestions for both teachers and students alike about how to address the misperceptions so that everyone has a good learning experience.



Kasandra Cruz, BS Biochemistry, Spanish Minor



CONFERENCES



Thanks to funding from the departments of Modern Language Studies and Secondary Education, on October 6 and 7, 2017, thirteen Spanish and German language students attended the PA State Modern Language Association Fall Conference in Hershey, Pa. Dr. Nancy Zimmerman led a panel discussion, "From All Angles: Preparing the Next Generation of WL Teachers," in which her current student teacher, Mason Smith (German), and former student teacher, Julia Snyder (Spanish), along with mentor teachers and university supervisors from the state, discussed their experiences in the field of world language education.

MLS Students and Faculty Attend PSMLA Conference

Three BSED Spanish students presented at the 19th Annual Berks County Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference on April 7, 2018. *photo l-r:* Alexa Murdock, Felicia Triebel, Dr. Christine Coleman Núñez (faculty sponsor for Alexa Murdock and Rebecca Guillén) and Rebecca Guillén.



Tierney Seufer, BA German, presented a poster at the LVAIC Women's and Gender Studies Conference held at DeSales University on April 14, 2018. *photo l-r:* Tierney Seufer, Dr. Lynn M. Kutch (faculty sponsor)



CONFERENCES (continued)

Five Spanish and Spanish Education majors presented posters of their research at the Temple University “Language, Linguistics and Life Conference”, under the direction of Dr. Christine Coleman Núñez. *photo l-r*

- Justin Maurer, “Code-switching of Hispanic Heritage Learners”
- Nektaria Papadopoulou, “The Growth of Oral Language Ability at Kutztown University in Study Abroad Programs”
- Alexa Murdock, “Las actitudes y percepciones sobre los plataformas en línea versus el texto impreso en relación al aprendizaje de la segunda lengua y las inteligencias múltiples de Gardner”
- Morgan Contoleon, “Preparing All Teachers for Educating English Language Learners”
- Rebecca Guillén, “Cognitive Development: Monolingual Children v. Bilingual Children”



 TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
**GSOLT 5TH ANNUAL LANGUAGE,
LINGUISTICS AND LIFE CONFERENCE**

Undergraduate Research as a High-Impact Student Experience

David Lopatto, for AAC&U

“The positive effects of an undergraduate research experience on student learning, attitude, and career choice have passed from anecdote to systematic data. Many educators, particularly in the sciences, have come to see the potential for authentic undergraduate research to be a high-impact educational practice

AACU

Generation Next Program

visits KU

On April 1, 2018, 22 students from the “Generation Next” program visited the Kutztown campus. They had lunch in South Dining Hall, visited Dr. Kutch’s *GER WGS 370 Race and Gender in Germany and Europe*, and participated in a campus tour.

In Dr. Kutch’s class, students learned about the Red Army Faction, a German domestic terrorist group from the 1960s and 1970s. This led into discussions about acceptable forms of protest, at what point do causes go too far, and can we understand the motivations. A sampling of students’ reactions to the classroom visit appears below.

photo credit: April Gamiz, October 30, 2017.

“Generation Next helps Easton high school students navigate college process.” *The Morning Call*.



Generation Next is an initiative of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley. The program aims to help Easton Area High School juniors and seniors who may not have seen college as an option for them.



Emmanuel: “I liked the environment and how everyone spoke their mind and interacted.”

Tobi: “Interesting. Different from what I thought a college class would be. I wanted to know more. Down to earth teaching style and still interactive.”

Aaryan: “Everyone spoke their mind and was respected for their opinion. It was a civil discussion.”

Fayola: “Ideas bounce off of each other. He says his idea and then someone else builds on it with theirs and so on. It was collaborative.”

Brandon: “Interactive. After everything the prof. said, she turned it back to the class for their ideas.”

Kamilla: “I was surprised by the visuals and the I thought the interactive ‘folded paper’ activity was very interesting.”

MLS Graduates

Where are they **now**?



Melissa (Good) Krug graduated from KU in 2009 with a double major in Spanish (BA) and Anthropology (BA). She participated in the KU-Ecuador study abroad program, Anthropology club, and Sigma Delta Pi. She also tutored Spanish and won the Department of Modern Language Studies Award in Spanish. She is currently finishing her Ph.D. in Linguistic Anthropology at Temple University, with a focus on language use in a fair-trade handicrafts organization by clients, tourists, employees, and artisans, some of whom were Quechua speakers. Melissa recently returned from Peru where she spent 10 months visiting workshops, interviewing artisans and other fair-trade participants, and recording conversations to investigate how fair-trade communication works and how information is dispersed through international supply chains. She looks forward to applying her skills in linguistic analysis to solving problems and working with communities in organizations (fair trade or otherwise) in the United States as well as continuing to teach college courses.

The Department of Modern Language Studies, with support from ACE, the Multicultural Center and the Organization for Latino Awareness, sponsored two free Off-Broadway performances of “Growing up Gonzales” on April 11, 2018. This comedy with drama, described as a “bittersweet slice of Latino identity”, was also attended by local Latino community partners and approximately 300 students from seven area high schools. The event was part of the department’s continued commitment to a cultural environment that is welcoming and culturally-sensitive, as well as its commitment to Latino issues and cultural events in the local community.

GROWING UP GONZALES

The critically acclaimed one-man Off-Broadway play that brings to life: the Bronx, Puerto Rico, Roberto Clemente, Bruce Lee, Iris Chacon, racism, La Chilla, autism, life, death and so much more!

Wednesday, April 11, 2018
Schaeffer Auditorium
Shows at 11 am & 8 pm
FREE ADMISSION

For information: nunez@kutztown.edu or 610-683-4427
Sponsored by Assoc. of Campus Events (ACE), Modern Language Studies Dept., KU Multicultural Center, and Organization for Latino Awareness
Persons with a disability, call 610-683-4108 (TDD), 610-683-4499 or e-mail DO@kutztown.edu.

MLS Grad Awards

• Fall 2017

- *Linda Oswald Bogert
Memorial Award*

—Mason Smith

- *German Award*

—Shannon McCarthy

- *Cultural Ambassador
Award*

—Jorge González
Perdomo

• Spring 2018

- *Linda Oswald Bogert
Memorial Award*

—Josh Sell

- *German Award*

—Cheryl Vazquez

- *Spanish Award*

—Justin Maurer
—Rebecca Hess

MODERN LANGUAGE STUDIES AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Christine Coleman Núñez, Department Chair (nunez@kutztown.edu)
Ms. Merlene Oswald, Department Secretary (moswald@kutztown.edu)

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