

Spring 2015 News

Modern Languages and Literatures, Programs of Chinese, French, and German

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WHY MAJOR, MINOR, OR DOUBLE-MAJOR?

Global citizenship is what we do:

- We foster **diverse perspectives creatively applied**
- We teach skills and knowledge for **building communities and promoting change**
- We move students toward **scholarships and jobs** in the USA and internationally

Great teaching in and beyond languages is what we do:

- **Calligraphy, cities, culture, environmental studies, feminist studies, film, food, identity, literature, rhetoric**
- **FYS and Advanced Entry Seminars** include "Berlin Stories," "French Food Culture," and "Lessons from Chinese Writing"
- **Interdisciplinary Paideia** work is in "The Anthropocene," "Global Health," "Investigating Identity," "Mediterranean Mingling," "Representing Gender," and "Situating Place"

Building on national standards is what we do:

- National standards for **languages** move our students toward advanced proficiency
- National standards for **culture** engage our students with diversity
- National standards for **critical thinking** mean strong readers, writers, and researchers

We follow national debate about **languages and lifelong learning**, for example Alain-Philippe Durand's reminder that what we teach in French provides the skills necessary in any career to understand authority, communicate effectively, negotiate tasks creatively, assess cultural differences, and read and write critically.

This is why we are **not your parents' language programs** and always **interdisciplinary**....

OUR COURSES

- **Major** (French, German): Students typically need six courses beyond the required language sequence—with the capstone being one of those six courses.
- **Minor** (Chinese, French, German): Students typically need three courses beyond the language sequence (four in Chinese)—a popular option.
- **International Studies Major**: Modern Languages and Literature courses can count for many of the "Concentration" credits that accompany a disciplinary major in Art History, History, or Political Science.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TRENDS

- **Study abroad** and **community engagement** still feature in our programs
- **High-impact teaching** initiatives in German are strengthening interdisciplinarity
- **Blended learning** initiatives are redefining Chinese, French, and German courses

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Shelby Beem '15** earned a **2015-16 Fulbright Fellowship** to do research in Germany, Southwestern's twelfth recently
- **Belle Jo '16** earned a **State Department Critical Language Scholarship** to study in China, our fourth recently
- **Brittany Martin '15** earned a **Teaching Assistant in France** scholarship sponsored by the French Embassy, our sixth

Chinese, French, and German are a great match with many career objectives. According to a national survey, **majors in languages and literature were the top-paid** among Class of 2014 "Bachelor's" liberal arts graduates! Ask about the flexibility and creativity language study brings. To us,

*What students learn + **How they think critically and communicate effectively** = **Why they get that great job!***

OUR STUDENTS



Shelby Beem

Shelby Beem, a biochemistry major with minors in biology and German, earned a 2015-16 **Fulbright Fellowship** for research in Germany. She is our twelfth Fulbright recipient.



Belle Jo

Belle Jo, a Political Science major, received a 2015 **State Department Critical Language Scholarship** to study in China. Belle is the fourth Southwestern student selected in the last six years.



Adrienne Dodd

Adrienne Dodd earned the 2015 **Outstanding Student of Chinese Award** and the 2015 **Outstanding Student Volunteer Award**.

Adrienne is an Environmental Studies major, a Chinese minor, and on Women's Lacrosse.



Brittany Martin

Brittany Martin, a French major, will spend 2015-16 in the Orléans region of France, in Tours. She will teach secondary school students English, for the **TAPIF Teaching Assistant Program in France**.

Grace Naeger received a **full scholarship to pursue a PhD in French at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**. Along with **Anna Zolten**, who

double majored in French and Computer Science, she earned the 2015 **Outstanding Student of French Award**. In 2014-15, Grace served as the Teaching Assistant of Dr. Prevots, which involved observing French courses, learning about pedagogy, and leading several class days during the academic year.



Grace Naeger in front of Notre Dame in Paris, France

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

A **Careers in Languages** symposium took place on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, organized by Career Services. Alumni and other professionals spoke about their careers using foreign language and culture skills and experiences, including in diplomacy, translation, non-profit services, publishing, immigration law, and education (bilingual, ESL, foreign language). Panelists included:

Kevin Cline, UnitedTEFL, teaching English abroad

Patricia Arriaga, Georgetown ISD, bilingual teacher

Jean Miller, textbook publishing

Susannah Halsey (alumna), translation/immigration law

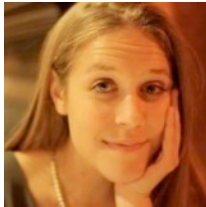
Anna Matis Briggs (alumna), Region 13 Education Service Center, ESL Education Specialist, and former French teacher

Paige Menking (alumna), Ventanillas de Salud Austin, non-profit/social services

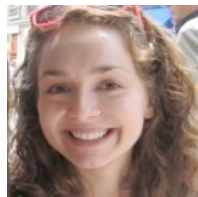
Floyd Cable, Diplomat-in-Residence at UT Austin, U.S. Department of State Foreign Service

OUR ALUMNI

Colin Berr '13's German studies gave him opportunities in the business world such as a year's internship in Frankfurt. | **Anna Matis Briggs '06**'s minor in French ensured a smooth transition to graduate studies and teacher training as an ESL Instructional Coach for Austin schools. | **Andrew Mayo '08** double-majored in French and Political Science, shaping his career as a commercial litigation lawyer finding creative solutions for clients. | **Molly O'Hara '12** used French to attend the prestigious Paris Institute of Political Studies for its Environmental Policy master's program. | **Erin Osterhaus '09**'s studies of French, German, and Spanish strengthened her research and writing skills for work in marketing as a Managing Editor. | **Julia Poritz '10**'s double major in French and Psychology shaped her research and communication skills for her PhD in Counseling Psychology. | **Amelia Shroyer '09**'s experience as a French minor gave her skills as a languages specialist. In Berlin, where she still speaks French every day, she is involved in the "Silicon Allee" social media startup scene.



Erin Osterhaus



Julia Poritz



Amelia Shroyer

OUR FACULTY

Dr. Erika Berroth

- received a \$6,000 grant from the Associated Colleges of the South to develop **Blended Learning: Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC)**, along with assistant professor of Computer Science **Dr. Jacob Schrum**. CLAC engages languages and intercultural perspectives across disciplines, especially in STEM, through materials in many languages. This grant sponsored a lecture by **Dr. Mohamed Esa**, President of the American Association of Teachers of German, on integrating STEM and Languages.
- received a \$3,000 grant to attend a 3-week summer seminar in Leipzig, Germany. The seminar, held at the Herder-Institut at the University of Leipzig, will explore the integration of MINT/STEM subjects in German curricula.

- will serve on the national steering committee of the Coalition of Women in German for a three-year term, to promote innovative, inclusive, feminist approaches to research and to the teaching and learning of German.
- supervised ten student presentations of original research at the From Every Voice Symposium.

Dr. Francis Mathieu taught a new course on "Colonization and Independence: Francophone Literature from Africa," emphasizing colonial and postcolonial conceptions of identity, gender, religion, and culture, as well as the French colonial perception of Africans and African resistance to colonial rule. He supervised Anna Zolten's Capstone, on food practices in France, and Brittany Martin's Capstone, on the role of organizations in French higher education. He published an article in *Papers on Seventeenth-Century French Literature*.

Dr. Aaron Prevots taught a new "Contemporary French Culture" course funded by a Mellon Faculty Development Grant that addressed history and continuity, friendship and family, workplace parity, and food and the environment, with emphasis on agribusiness, consumerism, global change, and cultural diversity. He supervised Grace Naeger's Capstone, on culture shock at home and abroad. He published several articles in 2014-15 on contemporary French poetry, including an annual overview for *The French Review*.

Dr. Carl Robertson

- featured in an online article as "The Liberal Arts Personified." "Education is not necessarily about getting somewhere, but being engaged in constant discovery, and Chinese pushes a student over into a different intellectual area," he said. "It conveys interest in challenges and in exploration and discovery; employers find value in that."



- served in the 2014-15 Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) Fellows Program, a yearlong faculty development program in which selected faculty integrate community-engaged learning into their pedagogy while becoming recognized campus leaders in community-engaged pedagogy. He will have SU students demonstrate calligraphy in local schools.

Dr. Pati Schiaffini

- worked with students to earn an ASIANetwork - Freeman Foundation Grant. Along with **Adrienne Dodd '15** and **Hunter Jurgens '17**, Schiaffini will carry out research on environmental problems in Tibetan-populated areas in China in summer 2015. They will approach issues from a multidisciplinary perspective, studying environmental problems and how Tibetans are trying to solve them.
- gave an invited talk in November 2014 on Tibetan writer and filmmaker **Pema Tsenden** at Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, China, as part of a symposium on his career as a translator. Also in November, Schiaffini and Southwestern student **Sara Hall '16** presented at the ACTFL convention in San Antonio, TX, on their outreach project for teaching foreign languages at local elementary schools.