

The TTU Polyglot Fall 2017

A Message from Outgoing Chair Mark Groundland

Our faculty and students once again illustrated the productivity and excellence within the Department of Foreign Languages during the 2016-2017 academic year. Our department underwent our five-year academic audit, and after preparing for it for more than a year, we are very happy

to report that we passed it with “flying colors.”

Like previous issues, this newsletter highlights the accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni during the previous academic year.

One final note: As of Aug. 1, 2017, I stepped down as interim chair and have

resumed faculty status, teaching Spanish classes, providing service to the department, university and the profession and have also resumed my research agenda. Martin Sheehan, associate professor of German, is now the interim chair of the department. I know he will excel in this position. 🇺🇸

Meet New Interim Chair Martin Sheehan



It is an honor and a privilege for me to serve the department in this new position, and I am looking forward to getting to know all our students—past, present and future.

Allow me to introduce myself—I am an associate professor of German here at Tennessee Tech, where

I am beginning my seventh year. Although I began my undergraduate career in electrical engineering at the University of South Carolina, I decided to pursue German with the intention of teaching at the high school level. While a graduate student at the University of Virginia, however, I found that I wanted to focus on research as well as instruction.

When possible, I try to create courses that introduce students to my research areas: dramatic comedy, disability studies, photography theory and digital humanities. I’ll be spending more time on

my administrative and service responsibilities as interim chair, but I still hope to pursue some smaller projects. My biggest project, of course, will be working with faculty and students to develop and strengthen our department. We all want to help our students succeed!

We would love for you to share any news you may have for us to publish in future newsletters. Please contact me at msheehan@tntech.edu with your news and updates. You can also follow our department on Twitter @TnTechDFL. Best wishes to all for an excellent 2017-2018 academic year! 🇺🇸

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Focus on Students

Kate Trebing: Journalism and French Major

I became interested in majoring in French when I learned of the study abroad programs available at Tech. Before I started college, I didn't think it was possible for me to travel, let alone study or work abroad! As I learned about the opportunities available in college to experience the world and discover new cultures, I realized I wanted to have a deeper investment in the places where I traveled. I wanted to be able to communicate with the people I met in either their own language or a language that we both understood.

French is the sixth most widely spoken language in the world, and it is second only to English in being an official language of 29 countries. The French language is also critical to the English vocabulary. About one-third of English either stems from or is linked to French. I love learning about a language which has so much relevance to both my own culture and to a large majority of the world beyond our country's borders. I believe that my knowledge of French will act as a gate through which I can enter into other cultures and meet new people.

I also love being a part of Tech's Department of Foreign Languages. Before I joined TTU's foreign lan-



guage program, I didn't understand how people could be so devoted to their majors. The TTU French Club, Avant-Garde, is one of my favorite aspects of the French program. We have themed movie nights, conversation hours and group trips for everything from volunteering in local schools (crêpe workshops) to seeing a Francophone comedian performance.

And of course, I love the fact that my French major strongly recommends studying abroad as a supplement to my education. To date, I have spent my last two summers abroad in Argentina and France, studying Spanish and French respectively. Studying abroad is invaluable. You will learn so much, not just about another culture, but also about your own culture, and even about yourself. During the course of the past two summers, I have

learned about myself and grown as an individual more than I have in the past four years as an undergrad.

I am excited about my future with my French degree! After I graduate, I plan to serve abroad in the Peace Corps (in a franco-phone country), after which I would like to teach in France. I would like to earn my master's degree in French studies, and possibly a doctorate someday, so that I can become a French professor back home in the United States. However, I know that I want to live abroad for several years after I graduate.

For me, studying French is only the beginning of an international education. I have read that after learning a second language, it is much easier to learn an additional language. I plan to test this theory. The world is full of opportunities; all that is necessary is to get out of your comfort zone and explore these prospects. 🇫🇷

"Studying abroad is invaluable. You will learn so much, not just about another culture, but also about your own culture, and even about yourself."

Did You Know?

Most TTU foreign language majors study abroad at least once. Tech has an excellent study-abroad program and can help pay for airfare. Immersing yourself in another culture and language can change your life!

Brian Kilgore: Biochemistry and German Major



The primary reason I decided to become a German major is that learning a new language was fun for me. I took two years of German in high school with Ken Brown, one of the best teachers I've ever had, and it was easily the most fun class I took in high school. Learning about a new language and culture was absolutely fascinating, and when I had the opportunity to visit Germany on a school trip during the summer between my junior and senior years, I became even more motivated to learn as much German as I could in high school.

When I arrived at Tennessee Tech as a chemical engineering major, I didn't have any plans to study German because I was focused on the engineering degree that I thought would eventually become my primary source of income. I still needed electives, though, so I decided to take German culture and civiliza-

tion, since I already knew a little about the topic. In taking the course, I realized just how much I missed learning German; eventually I talked to my professor, Martin Sheehan, about what opportunities might be available for me to take a few German classes.

After hearing about the special option for dual majors in the sciences and foreign languages that eliminated many of the courses I didn't see as particularly relevant to me, I realized that earning a second degree in a foreign language wasn't all that much more work than just obtaining a minor in German. I decided that graduating with degrees in science and foreign language was probably worth it, even if I had to take an extra semester to do so. I filled out the paperwork and declared a second major of German at the end of my freshman year. Since then I've changed my primary major from chemical engineering to biochemistry, but my German major is here to stay.

My most memorable experience in the German program so far is undoubtedly the month I spent this summer studying German at Universität Bremen in northwestern Germany. I had been to Germany several times before, but never alone

and never for an entire month. It was an amazing experience learning German alongside 120 other students from 63 different countries, and then having to put that knowledge into practice to talk to my fellow students, my host family or even random people on the street. I was amazed at how quickly you can learn another language if you use it in your everyday life. It was also the first time in my life that I made friends who could not speak or understand English at all. It was one of the best months in my life thus far, and I hope I have the opportunity to do something similar again in the future.

As for what I plan to do with my two degrees, I'm hoping to apply to graduate school to study chemistry in Germany. My German isn't quite on that level yet, but I've still got a year and a half left at TTU, and I'm getting close. I'm confident that if I keep working at it I'll be able to reach my goal.

"I was amazed at how quickly you can learn another language if you use it in your everyday life."

Did You Know?

French, German and Spanish are popular secondary majors at TTU for students from a wide variety of other disciplines, such as Engineering, Business, History and English. Knowing a second language can provide an "edge" in the job market!

Clark Dycus: Secondary Ed. with Spanish Concentration



Regrettably, I did not take my high school Spanish classes seriously enough. However, in my sophomore year of college I was lucky enough to have a truly inspiring Spanish teacher. Señora Andrews provided me with a great knowledge base and, perhaps more importantly, instilled in me a love of learning Spanish. Through her impassioned teaching, full of personal anecdotes about living or staying in a variety of Spanish-speaking countries, every student was fully captivated by simple yet enthralling lessons. I began to feel a great rush in practicing Spanish—in trying to remember words, in answering my own questions about its operations and in trying to translate various texts. Learning Spanish became a game to me and I felt perpetually enchanted by it.

Later in my college career, when I realized that my pursuits in psychology weren't exactly right for me, I remembered how much I had really loved my class with Señora An-

draws and every Spanish class after that. One day it dawned on me that this was the field of study for me. I began to realize that Spanish could pave the way for a wide variety of careers. I could live in the U.S. or I could live abroad; I could translate for a business, government entity, hospital or school; or, I could teach Spanish.

Being the oldest of several siblings, I've always been comfortable around children. Because my mother is a teacher, I've always valued knowledge and learning new things, and I understood early the importance of bestowing that knowledge on future generations. I recognized that teaching Spanish could be a great way to help others and to feel that I was making a significant impact on the world—all while learning about, and possibly traveling to, some of the most fascinating and unique cultures on the globe. This recognition eventually convinced me to change my major from psychology to secondary education: Spanish.

Since then, my time with the Department of Foreign Languages at Tennessee Tech has been as enriching and enjoyable as my first college Spanish class. I was fortunate enough to take classes covering a variety of uses

of the Spanish language: business in the Spanish-speaking world, how to translate properly, and literature courses. Some of my favorite classes were those on Spanish films and an overview on Latin American history. Each professor left an indelible impact on my acquisition of Spanish and shaped my efforts to become a future Spanish teacher. They also helped me to see the abundant opportunities that teaching Spanish offered.

Apart from my Spanish classes, there have also been many unforgettable out-of-class experiences, as well. Many a funny joke or misunderstanding has arisen in the Spanish conversation hours offered by the department. I've also enjoyed the Amigos' (Spanish Club) movie nights; that is where I first saw one of my favorite Spanish movies, *Vivir es fácil con ojos cerrados*. In addition, Manuel Villalba, assistant professor of Spanish, once took several of us students to a Mexican restaurant and we were only allowed to talk in Spanish, which was a lot of fun.

In short, my time under the guidance of the Department of Foreign Languages here at TTU has simply been unforgettable. Professor Villalba, in particular, has been a ***continued on next page***

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great mentor and role model for me regarding second-language acquisition. I already can envision myself occasionally returning after I graduate to converse with many of the professors here and discuss pedagogical issues with them. I still have one more semester before I fulfill that hypothetical, but given the knowledge and the tools that my Spanish professors have equipped me with, I think it's a pretty safe assumption that I will find post-graduate success in the world around me. ■

Did You Know?

Studying a second language can improve your skills and grades in math and English and can improve graduate entrance exam scores—GREs, MCATs, LSATs!

German Students Exhibit Work



Students from Martin Sheehan's German 3150 "Introduction to German Literature" course shared what they discovered, created, designed and explored in fall semester 2016 during a learning exhibition entitled "Coffee, Cake, and Creativity" (above). Attendees learned about German literary masterpieces and the creative ways Sheehan's students connected them to our contemporary world.

In spring 2017, students from Sheehan's German 2520 course exhibited their

critical inquiry projects during an event called "Visualizing Challenges: A QEP/EDGE Exhibition" (below). The event featured a wide range of student research posters that explored what images from the German culture can tell us about global challenges, urgent international threats to humanity's potential to build a better future for everyone on earth which include issues such as gender equality, social justice, global ethics, education and technological innovation. ■



Senior Capstone Experiences: 2016-17

Student names, the faculty with whom they worked and the topics for their foreign languages senior capstone projects for the past academic year were:

Rad Cuebas (w/ Sheehan), "*Digedags und die DDR: Comics in Ostdeutschland*" [*Digedags and the German Democratic Republic: Comics in East Germany*]

Sarah Gillespie (w/ Barnard), "*Comparaison entre les attitudes envers l'anglais et l'arabe en France*" [A Comparison of Attitudes

toward English and Arabic in France]

Kaylee Lankford (w/ Villalba), "*Las mujeres en las obras de Federico García Lorca*" [A Study of Women in the Literary Works of Federico García Lorca]

Elisabeth Lomax (w/ Groundland), "*El declive del catolicismo en la España contemporánea*" [The Decline of Catholicism in Contemporary Spain]

Jessica Mathias (w/ Laurila), "*Desarrollando la*

economía nicaraguense a través de la educación informal" [A View of the Nicaraguan Economy through the Lens of Informal Education]

Sarah Millard (w/ Groundland), "*La influencia maternal en las novelas de Esmeralda Santiago*" [Maternal Influence in the Novels of Esmeralda Santiago]

Bethany Shelton (w/ Villalba), "*Las mujeres diaspóricas en el cine contemporáneo español*" [Diasporic Women in Contemporary Spanish Cinema]

Foreign Language Clubs

French Club (*Avant-Garde*)



Students at Livingston Academy join French Club members in making crêpes.

County High School, held several conversation hours (both beginner and advanced), enjoyed the sixth annual Zombie Potluck at Halloween and celebrated the end of the semester with lunch at The Bull and Thistle.

The club kicked off 2017 in style by traveling to Atlanta to see a show by France's top comedian, Gad El Maleh. Members also went to Livingston Academy for two crêpe-making sessions, held more conversation hours and sponsored another successful series of crêpe workshops, where the club shares its crêpe knowledge with the larger



French Club members enjoy a performance by France's top comedian, Gad El Maleh, in Atlanta.

community. The semester finished up with participation in TTU's international festival, Window on the World, and another celebratory lunch at The Bull and Thistle. 🇫🇷

Faculty Advisor:
Debbie Barnard, Ph.D.
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Avant-Garde was busy in the fall and spring semesters. In fall, club members traveled to Sparta to make crêpes with the French students at White

German Club (*Der deutsche Klub*)

German Club held several events last year. Our annual Oktoberfest served up a real German feast (sausages, sauerkraut, potato salad, rolls) and gave students and other Tech community members a chance to arm wrestle and learn German tongue twisters. We also sponsored multiple film evenings and conversation hours.

A group of students joined associate professor of German Julia Gruber on a hike to Virgin Falls. We also set up a table at Window on the World (WOW) to sell German/Austrian baked goods and chocolates to the Cookeville



German Club members hike to Virgin Falls with professor Julia Gruber.

community.

Finally, *Der deutsche Klub* awarded the annual German Club award for "Most Dedicated Student of German at TTU" for 2016-17 to Danielle Brannon. She was instrumental in making our presence at this year's WOW a success. She applied herself and surprised us all with little gifts all year long. Danke, Danielle! 🇩🇪



Julia Gruber (right) presents award to German student Danielle Brannon.

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Spanish Club (*Amigos*)

Academic year 2016-2017 was another exciting time for *Amigos*. We met regularly during both fall and spring semesters to practice our Spanish communicative skills. Our now legendary conversation hour was open to all students (advanced and beginner) and to the community at large. This activity allowed the participants to practice their Spanish skills in a friendly and informal environment, and helped us become more aware of the challenges the Latino community faces in the U.S.

In April we participated in Window on the World. Professors Groundland and Villalba helped us by hosting our table at the event. Our mission was to



Spanish professor Mark Groundland and members of Amigos participate in Window on the World in April.

help the community gain a better understanding of Hispanic cultures. We distributed information on very different cultural points, we played games with children and we shared some Mexican candies with our visitors.

The past year was a success and we are looking forward to more exciting activities during 2017-18 for the Spanish Club.

News Flash: Follow the TTU Amigos' new Instagram, @tntechamigos!

Faculty Advisor:
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Alpha Mu Gamma

Lydie-Claire Brown, a TTU alumna with a double major in French and history, regaled the inductees and guests with a memorable speech about her background and the importance of foreign languages for her personally and professionally. You can read more about Brown in the Alumni Spotlight section of this newsletter.

During the induction ceremony, new members were recognized for their outstanding achievements while learning French, German or Spanish here at TTU. The inductees rec-

ognized at the Spring 2017 ceremony are:

French

Mary McCullough
 Rosaura Mejia

German

Samia Anderson
 Kaitlynn Marshall

Spanish

Cydney Carter
 Zackary James Garner
 Angela Denise Jones
 Bailee Michaels
 Sarah E. Millard
 Sarah Newberry
 Hannah Slayton



Cuebas Offered Fulbright



Rad Cuebas (German '17) was selected for a Fulbright U.S. Student Program English Teaching Assistantship in Germany from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Board.

Rad is one of more than 1,900 U.S. citizens given the opportunity to conduct research, teach English and provide expertise abroad for the 2017-2018 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement as well as record of service and leadership potential in their respective fields.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to build lasting connections between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Fulbright

Program is funded through an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations and foundations around the world also provide direct and indirect support to the Program, which operates in more than 160 countries worldwide.

Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright Program has given more than 370,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Did You Know?

In the past ten years, a total of six TTU foreign language majors have received a Fulbright award.

During the same time period, nine Tennessee Tech French majors have been chosen for the Teaching Assistant Program (TAPIF).

For more information about applying for a Fulbright or the TAPIF, contact Debbie Barnard, associate professor of French, at dbarnard@tntech.edu.



FL Alumni Chosen for TAPIF

Sarah Gillespie (French '17, above) and Meghan O'Donoghue (French/political science '14, below) have both been selected to participate in the French government's Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) for 2017-2018. Gillespie has been assigned to a high school in the area of Grenoble, and O'Donoghue will spend the period from October - April working among three junior high schools in Limoges.

The TAPIF program is a joint initiative sponsored by the French Ministry of Education and coordinated by the French Embassy, which selects approximately 1,100 American students each year to work in French primary and secondary schools. 



Alumni Spotlight

Lydie-Claire Brown, French and History, 2014

Books were my first experience with other languages. I found that books opened many windows for me. Through books I could go to places such as Narnia or Hogwarts, but I could also explore other languages and cultures, too. From an early age I began copying down non-English words and researching them.

I am the only child of a poet and a scientist, and the oldest grandchild of Depression-era farmers. I am also the only person in my family to speak another language, and the only one to have lived abroad.

I was in high school when I went abroad for the first time. I was already interested in French, but that trip cemented my interest. I clearly remember ordering *un sandwich du jambon* outside Notre Dame de Chartres, and having the person *understand* me! Suddenly I felt as if I had a superpower.

When I came to Tech I double-majored in European history and French language. In my senior year I applied to the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF), the French government's language exchange program, which brings native speakers of critical languages to the country and pays for them to work directly with students. This provides opportuni-

ties to converse with native speakers of English and hear their accents and syntax, as well as exchange cultural experiences. If you're a French speaker, I strongly encourage you to apply for TAPIF; it is life-changing.

During my time with the TAPIF I was stationed at Lycée in St-Brieuc, a mid-size town situated on the Baie de St-Brieuc in northern, coastal Bretagne. My family and friends were all a little shocked and/or appalled that I was planning to move there by myself, but I was excited. I moved in with a woman and her adult daughter (Marie-Claude et Stephanie) who lived just behind the school where I taught.

France opened an amazing number of windows for me. Every occurrence became an adventure or a new learning opportunity. I took harp lessons, attended a seminar on improvisation in Celtic folk music and learned how to make macarons, among many other mini-adventures. My French improved greatly with each of these activities, and my own sense of independence grew. I developed moxie!

French also opened a very big window that I never had considered before – the corporate world. I had planned to focus on my history degree and go to



graduate school after the TAPIF. But when I came back from France, I discovered that I was more committed to using French in my employment, and that my French degree was very marketable. Within a month of coming home, I had a job with International Scholarship and Tuition Services (ISTS).

Eventually I became supervisor for the other bilingual reps in the company. I use French in my job about 50 percent of the time. This includes working with Canadian scholarship programs, and also talking with Senegalese, Mahgrebin, Haitian and Cambodian immigrants to help them figure out ways to further their education. One Cameroonian woman named Marguerite had a lot of trouble completing her paperwork, becoming more and more confused and frustrated. She is now much more comfortable and confident speaking to me in French than talking to my coworker in English. The work is very rewarding: I feel that I am part of the reason that Marguerite is going back to school to earn her Bachelor's degree in nursing.

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"France opened an amazing number of windows for me. Every occurrence became an adventure or a new learning opportunity."

Faculty Spotlight

Julia Gruber, Associate Professor of German

I grew up in Graz, Austria, and lived there until I was 25. I completed a master's degree in English/German literature and linguistics and an ELS degree at the Karl Franzens University in Graz. My plan was to teach English and German to high school students. I also studied to teach German as a second language to non-native German students who came to the University of Graz to study. As an undergraduate student, I spent a year abroad in Australia.

After graduating and realizing how much grading was involved in teaching two languages, I knew it was not something I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I applied for, and received, a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the U.S. I completed a master's in German at Bowling Green State University. I also met my husband there.

As a European Fulbright recipient I had to leave the U.S. for two years, but I did not go back to Austria; instead, I got a job as a lecturer in Wales in the U.K. I married, and two years later we moved back to Ohio. Again, I tried teaching in a public school, but it made me very unhappy. So once again, I decided to go back to school; four years and two babies later, I completed a Ph.D. in German studies at the University of Cincinnati.

My research has always focused on the underdog, e.g., women, immigrants, children and Jews. Most recently, I have collected and conducted interviews with living Austrian and German authors on the topic of family novels. A collection of these interviews and essays by scholars from the U.S. and Europe is scheduled to be published later this year.

I have taught courses on literature by immigrants and literature by women. When I am unable to teach a whole course on my research, I show films and discuss articles and books that deal with my research interests with my students. I love the city of Berlin, where some of the family novels I have written about take place. I take students to Berlin every year, so there I can share my research interests and show students what I love about the city.

Germany is among the top economic players in Tennessee. Students who speak German add considerable value to their resumes. Some of our graduates work in German companies in Tennessee and are responsible for the entire German sections of their companies. The German program at TTU tries to reach out to the College of Engineering to attract their students to the program. An engineer who



speaks German has a tremendous edge in the job market.

In the past eight years, I have taken more than 100 TTU students to Germany. I hope to continue taking this trip. Although we are only there for ten days, I always notice great changes in my students. They become more self-aware, more confident, more independent. Many of them want to go abroad again, and for longer. I am proud of the many German students who have received Fulbright scholarships to teach and study in a German-speaking country. I believe the German section at this university challenges students – learning a foreign language is never easy – but it also equips them with a knowledge that often translates into power: the power to function in a different culture by speaking and understanding another language.

I am still in touch with many of the students who took my classes. Some of them report that they got

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"I take students to Berlin every year, so there I can share my research interests and show students what I love about the city."

"An engineer who speaks German has a tremendous edge in the job market."

Julia Gruber

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their jobs based on their knowledge of German or because they went abroad and became more open-minded, more courageous, more curious. I want to give this experi-

ence to more students at TTU and my dream is for the language requirement to be reintroduced so every student here will have a chance to learn a second language. 



Selected Recent Achievements by DFL Faculty

Debbie Barnard published another article in May 2016, "*La littérature comme religion séculière dans Mohammed Cohen de Claude Kayat*" in *Les Cahiers du GRELCEF*. She also received an EDGE Creative Inquiry Curriculum grant to use toward converting her French Culture and Civilization course (FREN 2510/3510) to an online format.

Karen Burdette (emerita) presented the following paper at the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies (SCOLAS) conference in Campeche, Mexico in March 2017: "*Yo leo, yo puedo; no leo, no puedo: Literary Challenges in an Immigrant Community in Tennessee, USA.*" In 2015, she presented a paper entitled "Welsh Consonant Mutations and Spanish Consonant Allophones: Are there Similarities?" at the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL) at Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Mark Groundland continues to index journal articles for the MLA Inter-

national Bibliography.

Julia Gruber published a book review on *Kaleidoskop. Kultur. Literatur und Grammatik* in *Die Unterrichtspraxis / Teaching German*. She has also edited a special issue (with Anna Souchuk) of *Modern Languages Open (Liverpool)* entitled, "Reading Between the Bloodlines: Essays and Interviews on the Family in the German-Speaking World," which is forthcoming in fall 2017.

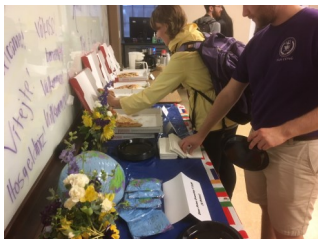
Colleen Hays published an article entitled, "*Beur-French Romances in French Comedies: Post-Colonial Mimicry or a Challenge to Essentialist Identities?*" in *The Journal of European Studies*.

Martin Sheehan was named a Faculty Fellow at Tech's Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, where he currently leads the Digital Humanities (DH) Academic Learning Community. In September 2016, Sheehan presented his ongoing DH project entitled "Alea—A Digital Remixing Tool for Students

and Scholars" at the German Studies Association Conference in San Diego, California. He also designed and led a workshop entitled "Twittering Machines: How to Create a Twitterbot in No Time" at Vanderbilt University's The Humanities and Technology Camp in October 2016. He won an EDGE Curriculum grant for his project entitled, "Visualizing Culture: Critical Inquiry, Images, and German Identity." In the spring semester, Sheehan was named a finalist for the university-wide Outstanding Faculty Award in Teaching.

In addition to his forthcoming book, *Correspondencia (1924-1974): Jorge Guillén / Américo Castro (Universidad de Valladolid & Fundación Jorge Guillén)*, **Manuel Villalba** published two articles in 2016: "*Ansiedades sociales, historicismo y democracia en Días de llamas de Juan Iturralde (Anales de la Literatura Española Contemporánea)*"; "*Una carta inédita de Claudio Sánchez-Albornoz dirigida a Américo Castro*" (*INCIPIT*).

Students Participate in Annual Meet-and-Greet



Foreign language and international business and cultures majors, faculty and advisors participated in our annual Meet-and-Greet on Tuesday,

Sept. 12, during dead hour. Members of TTU's chapter of Alpha Mu Gamma, the national foreign languages honor society, were also invited.

Attendees enjoyed a pizza buffet and door prize drawings. Six lucky students each won an inflatable beach ball "globe."

The DFL and IBAC sponsor this event each fall to give students, faculty and

advisors an opportunity to meet each other in an informal setting. DFL Interim Chair Martin Sheehan remarked, "these types of events help foster an atmosphere of community, connection and collaboration among our language students. It's great to see them chatting about their past experiences abroad and their future plans—that's exactly why we organize these events!"

FL Scholarships Awarded

The Askey Foreign Languages Annual Scholarships are generously provided each year by Thelma Askey. The recipients for 2017-2018 were: Dalton D. Hamlin, a double major in Spanish and sociology (concentration in criminal justice) and Olivia G. Hendricks, a double major in German and English (concentration in professional communications).

The Alberta Campana Memorial Scholarship

winner for 2017-2018 was Kate Trebing, journalism and French major.

The Fredrick Heina Memorial Scholarship and the Faculty and Alumni Scholarship were not awarded this past year, but we hope to resume the annual presentation of these awards in spring 2018. Funds for these three awards come from alumni, faculty and friends of the department. Anyone who wishes to donate to one of these scholarships should

Did You Know?

Students must plan ahead when applying for scholarships. TTU's scholarship deadline is Dec. 1 of each year. Students must apply by this date in order to qualify for scholarships for the following academic year. For example, Dec. 1, 2017, was the deadline to apply for 2018-2019 scholarships and awards.

specify the name of the award to which they want to contribute.

Alumni Spotlight *continued from page 9*

My language skills have set me apart from my colleagues and have made me the "international expert." The skills and tools that I learned as a French major help me uncover information that my company needs about other

languages and cultures. My next big projects include revamping our application templates to remove American bias, and developing a business plan for our company to open our first international office – in France, of course. I also recently started a partnership with

TTU to give foreign language majors the opportunity to intern with us!

Take a chance and open a window, even if you're not sure where it leads. You may just end up being the person who opens windows of opportunity for others!