

5 Students Completed Capstone Project

Every foreign language major or double major must complete a rigorous capstone project during their senior year. They worked hard and deserve recognition! Here are their names and Capstone topics.

Nicole Bos (with Olsen): *Los Carteles en México y Los Gobiernos de EEUU y México* [The Cartels in Mexico and the American and Mexican Governments]

Liezl Laurel (with Martin): *El arte como testigo: Los femicidios en México* [Art as a Witness: Femicides in Mexico]

Mariam Abbas (with Groundland): *Las mujeres en carreras CTIM en los EE.UU., medio oriente y los países hispanos* [Women in STEM Fields in the U.S., Middle East, and Latin America]

Jazlinn Cojom (with Groundland): *Los efectos de la estigmatización entre la comunidad hispana en los Estados Unidos* [The Detrimental Effects of Stigmatization in the Hispanic Community in the United States]

Sami Cullum (with Barnard): *Le Cyberterrorisme et la Réponse de la France* [Cyberterrorism and France's Answer]



Students posing with a German WWII bunker in Dunkirk.



Students in Dunkirk, France, learning about French culture (FREN2050) during a study abroad in May 2024.

14 Students Inducted into FL Honor Society

Last April, 14 students were inducted into Eta Psi, the Tennessee Tech chapter of Alpha Mu Gamma. Guest speaker at the ceremony was Olivia Hendricks, a 2018 Tennessee Tech English, professional and technical communication and German graduate. At the ceremony she encouraged students to study abroad as she did in 2022-2023.

FRENCH

Claire Harris

Scott Moss

SPANISH

Ashley Escamilla

Olivia Furr

Damien Gentry

Aiden Gillis

Alyssa Johnson

Ashley Portillo

Zoe Rager

Thomas Roberts

Autumn Shrum

Nathaniel Wolffe

Jackson Wood

Hannah Zannucci



French club Avant-Garde playing pétanque, a French boule game, on the Quad during Lawn Game Day.

Donate to Foreign Languages

Students need financial support now more than ever. To make a gift that benefits FL students, visit www.tntech.edu/cas/fl/ and click on "About Us" or scan the QR code on the right. Thank you!



FL Scholarships Awarded FOR 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

Students were awarded at the Honor Night on April 11, 2024.

Marshall and Thelma G. Bertram Liberal Arts Scholarship: Ashley Portillo & Autumn Shrum

Wilbur Raatz Scholarship: Camden Norris, Ethan Mazur, Ella Neal, Hope Shelton and Wyatt Donohoe.

Foreign Languages Faculty and Alumni Scholarship: Linda Alex Clark

Tennessee Tech does not condone and will not tolerate discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, genetic information, disability, veteran status, and any other basis protected by federal and state civil rights law. Tennessee Tech complies with Title IX and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities, admissions or employment. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action may be referred to the Director of Affirmative Action, Derryberry Hall 146, Box 5132, Cookeville, TN 38505-0001, 931-372-3069, equity@tntech.edu. Inquiries regarding Title IX may be referred to Tennessee Tech's Title IX Coordinator, Derryberry Hall 258, 931-372-3034, titleix@tntech.edu, or to the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, 800-421-8339, OCR@ed.gov. CASRI39-SEL-24

The Polyglot

A YEAR IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish major Laurel wins Kurt Eisen Award

Liezl Laurel, a Spanish and computer science double major, is the recipient of the 2024 Kurt Eisen Excellence in Liberal Arts Award. The award recognizes excellence in three areas: context consciousness, communication and critical thinking. Liezl was nominated by Dr. Joshua Martin, assistant professor of Spanish. He writes, "Liezl represents the highest ideals of humanistic inquiry and impactful research. She embodies the full spirit of the award and is an exceptional ambassador for TTU's mission and values."



On the picture: Roberts, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Liezel Laurel, holding her award.

WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Sheehan



A Year of Transitions

Our department has a new home! Over the summer of 2023, we made an exciting move to Henderson Hall. This new location brings us closer to other humanities programs, such as History and English. The move not only enhances our accessibility but also strengthens our ties with fellow departments, fostering a shared commitment to a well-

rounded liberal arts education.

Recently, we streamlined the concentration requirements for majors. Our degrees now start at the 1020 level, and we have removed one upper-level course from the program of study. This adjustment allows students to engage with their academic interests, making it easier to balance a dual-degree path. We are committed to supporting our students' goals by continually adapting our programs to meet their needs in today's dynamic academic environment.



Henderson Hall, new home to the Department of Foreign Languages

Congratulations!

Martin Sheehan was named chairperson of the department, after serving in an interim position since 2017.

Debbie Barnard was promoted to full professor.

Cristina Humita was promoted to senior lecturer.

Michael Olsen received the College of Arts & Sciences Award For Research and Scholarly Activity and the Faculty Excellence in Course Design.

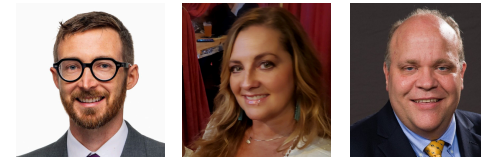
Julia Gruber was the recipient of the Wings of Kindness award.

New Faces in Foreign Languages

Joshua Martin joined our department in Fall 2023 as a professor in Spanish. As a TN Tech graduate and the holder of advanced degrees from the University of Kentucky, Martin is perfectly equipped to support Tech students on their academic journey.

Christina Kiger also joined us as our department administrator.

Finally, **Daren Snider**, the recently hired dean of Arts and Sciences, also joined our department as a professor of German.



Left to right: Martin, Kiger and Snider.

Faculty Highlights

In May 2024 **Barnard** taught 13 students in the French Culture and Civilization course during a two-week trip to France. Barnard's article, "Famille déshumanisante, famille libératrice dans La Paria de Claude Kayat," will appear in the December 2024 issue of the Revue TrOPICS, dedicated to new and reconfigured family relationships in 21st century francophone literature. Barnard, along with Duthoit, received a grant from the French government's French in Higher Education initiative that provides for the establishment of professional ties with French-owned companies in Tennessee.



Left to right: Cultural attaché David Ruffel, French consul Anne-Laure Desjonquères, Debbie Barnard and Juliette Duthoit.

Duthoit took two students to Dunkirk (France) in May 2024 to complete 30 hours of internship in French in a field of their choice. This new internship program is available for French learners at the 3000 level and will be reconducted in Spring 2026 with new opportunities of internship in varied fields.

Groundland recently shared his expertise at the 74th Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference (November 2024) with a presentation entitled, "Useful Notes for Publication Success from an MLA Field Bibliographer." Additionally, Groundland continues



Groundland (last on the right) and volunteers for the group ESTAR Sanos.

participate in a joint College of Nursing and Department of Foreign Languages initiative that fosters healthcare education and awareness to Hispanic communities in the Upper Cumberland. This ongoing project called ESTAR Sanos was funded by a grant from the Tennessee Department of Health, of which Groundland is a co-principal investigator. He has recruited Spanish majors and Martin to participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

In 2024, **Gruber** published a book review on "The Legacy of Ruth Klüger and the end of the Auschwitz Century" in the journal Monatshefte and another one on "Writing the Child: Fictions of Memory in German Post-War Literature" in the journal Gegenwartsliteratur. Her essay entitled "Colonial Propaganda Fiction: Else Steup's Backfisch Novels from the 1930s" will be published with University of Toronto Press in 2025. She is currently co-editing a collection of essays on feminist anger, which will include her own contribution "Fuming with Laughter: Anger and Humor as Erotic Powers in Stefanie Sargnagel and Hysteria, Akademische Burschenschaft zu Wien." Gruber looks forward to taking a group of students to Berlin in 2025.

Martin published one article in the journal JumpCut: "A Review of Contemporary Media", and two book chapters: one in the collection "American Conspiracism: An Interdisciplinary Volume" on the Structure of Conspiratorial Beliefs in the U.S, the other in "Non-Normative Sexualities in US Latinx and Latin American Literature". Martin is an active member of ESTAR Sanos, a rural outreach program that promotes healthy practices and vaccine awareness in the Upper Cumberland Hispanic community. He is serving as the new faculty advisor of Alpha Mu Gamma since Fall 2024.



Martin providing interpreting services with ESTAR Sanos.

Olsen developed and taught a hybrid version of Latin American Culture and Civilization focused on music as part of a Faculty Academy for Course and Program Development grant. Each Friday students met face-to-face to experience the cultures first-hand by learning about and playing Latin

American percussion instruments. Over the summer, he traveled to Peru to recruit for the Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) and the Department of Foreign Languages and wrote a manuscript on the development of CESL.

In Fall 2023, **Sheehan** conducted a program review at the University of Central Missouri, where he brought insights and recommendations to enhance academic quality and support for modern language students. Back at Tech, he engaged with digital humanities students through a guest lecture, where he discussed key concepts and methodologies of social network analysis. Sheehan's expertise in digital humanities received international recognition in May 2024 when he was invited by the Austrian Science Fund to review an innovative digital humanities project.

Two-Week Study Abroad in France

In May, 15 students went to France with Barnard and Duthoit. They stayed two weeks in Dunkirk, a major port city in the North of France, close to Belgium. They

discovered French farmer markets, French cafés and restaurants, and the French way of life. They also learned about WWII and learned how to sand yacht! They visited museums and other cities around such as Bergues and Lille in France, and Ghent in Belgium.



Student sand yachting on the beach of Dunkirk, France.

They then traveled to Normandy where they visited Caen (William the Conqueror's city!), walked on the Normandy beaches and saw D-Day museums and cemeteries. They ended the trip in Paris, where they saw the Eiffel Tower and took a boat tour to see the city from the river Seine. Finally, they enjoyed a



free day in Paris before flying back to Tennessee. Big thanks to the Provost office and the College of Arts and Sciences for helping with airfare!

News From Alumni



Graduates, we want to hear from you! Send us updates at languages@ntech.edu.

Olivia Hendricks (German, 2018) is back in the USA after almost a year in Hamburg, Germany, where she worked as an English teaching assistant at a trade school. She is working towards a master's in curriculum and instruction at Tech while working as an English as a second language teacher in Putnam County.

Lydie-Claire Brown (French, 2014) was a contestant on Jeopardy last year. In her day job she does support and web development for Dealer Spike, where she handles their francophone clients.

Meghan O'Donoghue (French, 2014) completed her Ph.D. at UVA in April and is now teaching a course called "The Art of the Autobiography" as part of post-doctoral program there.

Chris Refer (French 2015) teaches French at The Randolph School in Huntsville, AL, and is completing a master's degree in foreign language education from Auburn University.

Students on a boat in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.

Top row, left to right: Jonathon Schiller, Eleanor Schiller, Kaci Schelling, Gavin Hall, Mary Kate Polk, Trudy Langford, Maggie Uehling, Susan Dong, Lela Gracy and Noah Rogers. Bottom row, left to right, sitting: Christian Wilson, Lindsey Black, Alex Clarke, Cameron Douglass and Jasmine Munoz.