

# The PALINGUAL

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THE NEWSLETTER OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES AT FURMAN UNIVERSITY



**The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures 2022-2023.** Standing: Angélica Lozano-Alonso, Daniel J. Worden, Jeff Michno, Ilka Rasch, Eunice Rojas, Adrián Masei, Marianne Bessy, Ron Friis, Geraldine Poppe Suter, Santiago Quintero, Carole Salmon, Mahan Ellison, Juan Garrido Pozú. Seated: Sofia Kearns, Maria Rippon, Linda Bartlett, Angeli Leal, Anne Culberson, Emily Krauter. Not pictured: Nathan Brown, Stephanie Knouse, Lourdes Manyé.

## CHAIR'S UPDATE

By Linda B. Bartlett

### CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

As faculty, one of our favorite fall rituals is reconnecting with alumni at the MLL Homecoming tent. We love to hear our former students' news and learn how the experiences they had at Furman and in MLL have enriched and influenced their lives after graduation. Naturally, our grads also want to hear about what is new in MLL—and, maybe even more so, what is the same. Those questions take on a new relevance in the context of the pandemic and its impact. In this issue, we want to catch you up on the news from Furman Hall 235 as we have resumed an (almost) normal operating mode for the first time since spring 2020.

***Happily, Modern Languages and Literatures continues to thrive even in the face of recent challenges.***

In 2021-22, Furman collaborated with high-quality providers to send our students abroad once again. MLL participants gave glowing reports about their experiences in Austria, Chile, France, Germany, and Spain. Nevertheless, in 2022-23 we are delighted to reestablish our faculty-led programs with Nebrija in Madrid (fall) and FU-BEST in Berlin (spring). Our France study away program has a brand-new home in Rennes as of this fall

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(cont'd)

(with partner CIEE). Our Language House program is still on hiatus, but in the meantime are pleased that we have had talented students (and a few alumni) cover the gaps left by our Language House Assistants. For the last three years, these teaching assistants and “Cultural Events Coordinators” have provided in-class support and co-curricular activities to allow our students as many opportunities as possible to put their language skills to use. The Modern Language Center, MLL’s “town square,” is fully operational for the first time since 2020. Students can once again drop in for tutoring, individual studying, Café français, Kaffeestunde, Café social, and other formal and informal interactions in the target language.

On the faculty side, Dr. Cherie Maiden and Dr. Bill Allen are the latest MLL professors to join the ranks of the retirees. We miss them and our other emeriti colleagues dearly but enjoy hosting them for brownbag lunches throughout the year. We have also been fortunate to welcome several new colleagues across all three languages. Of course, faculty continue to prioritize excellent teaching and active mentoring of students. MLL faculty oversee undergraduate research projects and local internships, provide intensive preparation for students applying for post-graduate fellowships, and teach and advise through Furman’s new Pathways program for first- and second-year students. We also continue to publish, present at



conferences, and make other meaningful contributions to our scholarly fields. Last year, MLL showcased our flexibility by hosting an all-virtual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference (postponed from 2020).

With another successful Homecoming now on the books, I think back on the alumna I met last year who could recount many specific details of her study away experience in Spain some fifty years later. It reminds me that although some things have changed, many things remain constant. MLL continues to Go Beyond, bringing the world to our students and our students to the world in ways that transform lives. You don’t have to wait until Homecoming to come see us or be in touch! Whenever we reconnect, we can’t wait to catch up on the news.



# 2022 MLL FACULTY UPDATES



**William G. Allen** In his final year as an active Furman professor, Dr. Allen gave the virtual presentation “Baudelaire in the White House: Jacqueline Kennedy and the Dandification of Camelot” at the 51st annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference in October 2021. The following month in Las Vegas, Nevada he presented “Paris, Las Vegas: The Moulin Rouge, Patrick Modiano and *villes-palimpseste*” at the annual meeting of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association. His book chapter “French Style Comes to the American Middle Class: The Jackie Effect,” is forthcoming in the volume *Paris in the Americas*, to be published by Vernon Press. Dr. Allen received the Janie Earle Furman and Alistair G. Furman III Award for Meritorious Advising at the 2022 Furman Commencement exercises.



**Linda Bartlett** Dr. Bartlett has recently published a book review “Approaches to Teaching the Works of Miguel de Unamuno” and an article entitled “Cinematic Intertextuality and Self-Reflexivity in El Ministerio del Tiempo.” The latter appeared in the edited volume *Crear entre mundos: nuevas tendencias en la metaficción Española*, published by Albatros. She did double duty at the 2021 Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference, giving both a scholarly talk (“Kidnapping Hitchcock: Film and Spanish Identity in El Ministerio del Tiempo”) and delivering a response to the keynote address. In 2021-22, she enjoyed teaching a new course in our curriculum (SPN 330, Reading and Writing the Hispanic World), a literary survey course that fulfills the Writing and Research GER. She is beginning her last year as chair of MLL.



**Marianne Bessy** Dr. Bessy has been hard at work on a multi-contributor book project titled *Vassilis Alexakis: chemins croisés* which she is co-editing with Dr. Ioanna Chatzidimitriou (Muhlenberg College) and which was recently accepted for publication by the Presses Universitaires de Rennes. The article she co-wrote with Dr. Stephanie Knouse and Dr. Kyle Longest, “Knowing who we teach: Tracking attitudes and expectations of first-year post secondary language learners” appeared in *Foreign Language Annals* in 2021. Recently, she presented papers at the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference and at the Northeast Modern Language Association Convention. In spring of 2021, she was a Reflection fellow program participant. Dr. Bessy was awarded the Lois Aileen Coggins Chair in French, an endowed professorship that carries a lifetime appointment. Since January 2022, she has returned to the role of French Section Coordinator.



**Nathan Brown** In fall 2021 Dr. Brown as President of the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference organized its annual meeting as a virtual event hosted by Furman; it brought together nearly 150 colleagues in languages and literatures from across the country and the world. He recently completed work with Dr. Carole Salmon on the inaugural study away trip to Rennes, France. He and Dr. Salmon are also working on an exciting MayX opportunity to Québec open to all majors. On the research front he published an article in *Studies on Eighteenth-Century Culture* on the scrumptious topic of maple syrup, investigating the unexpected socio-cultural and intellectual impact of this material object in eighteenth-century Québec. Dr. Brown earned tenure in 2022 and was promoted to Associate Professor.



**Ronald Friis** Dr. Friis’s teaching and research project on Mexican poet and visual artist Alberto Blanco continued to evolve this year. In Spring 2021, students in Spanish 460, “Mexico: Text and Image,” studied Blanco’s collages and translated his poems and children’s books. Blanco then visited Furman’s classes, via Zoom, to discuss students’ versions of his work. Most students from these two classes presented their research on Mexico (virtually) at Furman Engaged! and the annual Latin American Studies Symposium hosted by Rollins College. In terms of research, Dr. Friis delivered a paper on Blanco’s poems from the pandemic at the virtual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference in October 2021 and on TFA strategies for teaching Blanco at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association convention in November. Friis’s article on Blanco’s *Cuenta de los guías* is forthcoming in the journal *Transatlántica*; his monograph *White Light: The Poetry of Alberto Blanco* was published in November of 2021 by Bucknell University Press. Dr. Friis was recently designated as the next chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures; his term begins in 2023.



**Stephanie Knouse’s** role as Furman’s Executive Reflection Fellow was renewed through spring 2021. In this capacity, she has been working with colleagues on campus to develop pedagogical strategies to deepen student learning. She also facilitated two workshops on reflection at Wofford College in 2019. Additionally, Knouse and MLL colleague Angélica Lozano-Alonso were invited to speak about service-learning in Greenville’s Hispanic community at the University of South Carolina Upstate. Knouse continues to work with French professor Marianne Bessy on their Language Learning Experiences project and they have submitted two manuscripts for publication on the first set of findings.



# 2022 MLL FACULTY UPDATES



**Emily Krauter** Dr. Krauter's highlights from the past year include teaching German Theatre during the spring 2022 semester which culminated in two end of semester performances of the play *Der Besuch der alten Dame* at the lakeside amphitheater on Furman's campus. The students from the course produced, acted, and designed all aspects of the production and it was a hit! She also co-directed a May-X to the Rhine Region with Anne Culberson and is looking forward to going back overseas next spring to co-direct the Berlin 2023 program for Furman students. This fall, she is bringing back a linguistics course about the origin of language (did our modern language abilities evolve from the grunting and gestures of cavemen or was there divine intervention? Stay tuned to find out...) and will present at the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference on the impact of foreign language proficiency during short-term sojourns abroad.



**Angélica Lozano-Alonso** Dr. Lozano-Alonso continues to serve as the faculty director of Furman's The Hill Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. She promotes the work of Furman's newest institute within the academic programming and facilitates workshops and classes on human centered design thinking. In October of 2021, she chaired and presented at a roundtable of the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference on "Incorporating LatinX Culture into the Spanish Major" and has a soon-to-be-published article in the MIFLC Review related to this work. In November of 2021, she presented "Mexican Wings in Greenville, SC" at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. In the spring of 2022, her coauthored "The Arts" chapter was published in the fifth edition of *Understanding Contemporary Latin America*, edited by Frank (Chip) Carey for Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc. She also became a Reilly Institute Diversity Fellow and she completed her IDEOU certification in Design Thinking.



**Lourdes Manyé** Dr. Manyé published the book chapter "El 'contrabando de géneros': la fotografía y la pintura en la construcción literaria de la memoria en Manuel Rivas" in *Crear entre mundos: nuevas tendencias en la metaficción Española*, (Albatros Ediciones, 2021), and presented it at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in April 2022. She also presented papers at two virtual conferences: "La psicogeografía de la memoria en *El último día de Terranova* de Manuel Rivas" at the XXVII Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos (CILH) in March 2021, and "*El Monarca de las sombras* (2017) de Javier Cercas: (des)memorias heredadas de la guerra civil" at the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference, October 2021. She presented on Catalan writer

Maria Barbal at the NACS International Colloquium, University of Massachusetts-Amherst in April 2022, and was invited to participate in a roundtable on "The present and Future of Catalan Studies" at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC) in Barcelona, on July 11, 2022.



**Jeff Michno** Dr. Michno has been active with several research projects engaging Furman students. Recent graduates Will Przedpelski '20 and Evan Myers '20 collaborated with Dr. Michno on a forthcoming publication by Brill about a small rural community in Southwestern Nicaragua, "Requests and interactional sequences in Nicaraguan Spanish service encounters," to appear in *Linguistic advances in Central American Spanish*. Morgen Smith '21 was the main contributor in a project looking at the impacts of a study-away semester on the pronunciation of Furman Spanish students, which resulted in a co-written manuscript submitted for publication. Current senior Landon Minor joined Dr. Michno's study-away research team in Spring 2022, which is making substantial progress on a co-written manuscript on whether and how our students learn to behave in a culturally-appropriate way while abroad. 2022 Summer Research Fellows Lauren Orfinik and Brynn Schmidt have also joined the team. Finally, Dr. Michno enjoyed continued collaboration on study-away pedagogical research with MLL colleague, Angélica Lozano-Alonso.



**Santiago M. Quintero Ayarza** For the past year, aside from serving as co-director of the Fall in Madrid Study Away program in Spain and prepping students for traveling (#MLLGoBeyond!), Dr. Quintero been researching representations of monsters in literature and cinema, and how they help us understand the different processes of identity formation in Latin American culture. He also worked on an article analyzing how Latin America's version of the protean image of the vampire, as depicted in literature, art, and cinema throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, allows us to render visible normative notions of gender and masculinity. The article is forthcoming at the journal *Cuadernos de literatura del Caribe e Hispanoamérica*.



**Ilka Rasch** Dr. Rasch published her article "RAF Corpse Art: the Resistant and Recuperative Body: Aesthetics of Diffusion and the Rote Armee Fraktion (RAF)/ Red Armee Faction" in *How to Make the Body: Difference, Identity, and Embodiment*. This special edition in visual and German contexts was edited by Jennifer L. Creech and Thomas Haakenson.

# 2022 MLL FACULTY UPDATES



**Eunice Rojas** During the 2021-2022 academic year, Eunice Rojas published a paper on the topic of ekphrasis in a novel by Chilean author Álvaro Bisama, and a chapter for an edited volume on human rights in Colombian popular songs. In addition, during her fall sabbatical, she completed her book manuscript entitled *Gringos Get Rich: Anti-*

*Americanism in Chilean Music*, which is now forthcoming with the University of Alabama Press. She also presented papers at four conferences, including three papers on Chilean and Colombian resistance music and one on the intersection of heteronormativity and the neoliberal economy in a Pablo Simonetti novel set during Chile's 2019 social protests. In the spring, she was elected as the next president of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, and at Furman's Senior Send-off, Dr. Rojas was presented with the Chiles-Harrill Award, making her an honorary member of Furman's Class of 2022.



**Carole Salmon** Dr. Salmon joined both the French and Linguistics programs in fall 2021. She presented her research about the current status and the future of French among several Franco-American communities in New England at the virtual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference and in November, she presented a paper

on Street Art in Paris as a way to “read” social stratifications of various Parisian neighborhoods at the PAMLA conference in Las Vegas (in person). She published an article titled “Immigrations francophones d’hier et d’aujourd’hui en Franco-Américanie” in a special issue for the 50th anniversary of the *Revue de l’Université de Moncton* (New Brunswick, Canada). In spring 2022, Dr. Salmon designed a TFA research project with the French majors enrolled in her FRN 405 course “Introduction to French Linguistics”, which culminated in students presenting their individual research projects at Furman Engaged! She is currently finishing a manuscript for an upcoming edited volume with Vernon Press.



**Daniel J. Worden's** article on a notable seventeenth-century utopian novelist, “Revealing the Unknown in *La Terre australe connue* by Gabriel de Foigny,” was published in volume XIX of *Cahiers du dix-septième*, the journal of the Society for Interdisciplinary French Seventeenth-Century Studies (SE17). In 2019, his critical edition and translation of

*Aphra Behn's 'Emperor of the Moon' and Its French Source, 'Arlequin, Empereur dans la lune'*, co-authored with Judy A. Hayden, was published by the Modern Humanities Research Association. In the summer of 2020, he enjoyed collaborating with summer undergraduate research fellows Caitlin Facello, Scarlett Holton, and Gracey Greco to write an article on the early modern LGBTQ proto-science-fiction author Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac (1619-1655). He is grateful to have received a South Carolina Humanities Grant in support of the project. He presented a paper on the transgender hero of a fantasy novel from 1700, *Séméliion, Histoire véritable*, at the annual SE17 conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, and his two newest research articles have been published in the journals *Configurations* and *Papers on French Seventeenth Century Literature*. He is pleased to have taught two courses on French cinema, and has developed a new French major course offering, “French 334: Visions of the Cosmos.”

# WELCOME OUR NEWER FACULTY MEMBER



## **EMILY KRAUTER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GERMAN STUDIES AND LINGUISTICS**

### **Would you say you have a hometown? If so, what is it?**

Yes! I'm a Hoosier! I grew up outside of Indianapolis, Indiana in the suburbs of Indy. People who are born in Indiana are Hoosiers, as well as those who went to Indiana University which means I'm a Hoosier two times over, and very proud of it! My childhood home was surrounded by cornfields and really nice people. It is a great place to raise a family and a good place to spend your childhood.

### **What languages do you speak, other than English?**

I speak German, I understand Bavarian, which is a dialect of German, and I speak very, very elementary Spanish. My grandmother is German, and she speaks Bavarian, and my dad also speaks Bavarian. I have relatives that still live in Germany and they speak Bavarian as well. They always try to speak Hochdeutsch, standard German, with me, because they think it's better, and they know it's easier for me to understand, but they'll still slip into Bavarian and to be honest, I love it! To me, Bavarian has a very nostalgic, homey feeling because it reminds me of my family.

### **Why do you teach German?**

It's something that grew out of a hobby and a passion. I started taking German when I was a freshman in college as my foreign language requirement. That summer before college, my parents sent me to Germany for the first time so I could reconnect with my roots before starting a new chapter in my life and the rest is history! I ended up studying abroad for a semester in Germany and then returning for a Fulbright. When I came back to the States, I got my Master's from Ole Miss and PhD from the University of Texas at Austin.

### **What do you think most surprises your students?**

I think a lot of them are surprised at how much German we speak. A lot of them are used to more of an English model, where you just do some activities in German, whereas I try to teach my classes in 90% German, 10% English. With some students, that's very disorienting, and they have a hard time adjusting but with other students, they love it, and they're like, "Hey, wow! This is for real!"

### **Can you recall your worst experience in the classroom?**

Oh my goodness, I remember... it was my first year teaching at Ole Miss and my advisor came to observe me and the technology completely stopped working. I had all the activities on a PowerPoint and it had worked all week, except that day! So, I ended up writing everything out on the board. I was so embarrassed but luckily, the students played along, and it turned out fine but I remember just sweating bullets. In the end, it was a really good learning opportunity for me because I learned that you always need a backup plan.

### **What topics do you research?**

I am interested in several different aspects of linguistics from applied to sociolinguistics. I did my Master's thesis on Kiezdeutsch, which is a stigmatized variety of German and I'm also interested in second language acquisition during study abroad. I also do research on the Grimm fairy tales, specifically the language that they use when describing their female characters.

### **What is your favorite travel destination?**

Rome, Italy! I do love Germany, but Germany is like a second home to me, whereas Rome is exciting and has history on every corner. I've been there two or three times now, and I just love the Italian culture, food, and lifestyle. I'm also Catholic, so going to the Vatican is like going to Catholic Disneyland.

# WELCOME OUR NEWER FACULTY MEMBER



## **CAROLE SALMON,** *PROFESSOR OF FRENCH AND LINGUISTICS*

### **Would you say you have a hometown? If so, what is it?**

I like to think that I'm a citizen of the world. But I was born in the Brie region of France, in Coulommiers, famous for its cheese. Then, later on, I did my graduate work at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, in Louisiana, so I have a little bit of my heart there. After that, I spent 14 years in Massachusetts, in Lowell, where I have another part of my heart, to finally come here in the Fall of 2021, to join Furman University and I'm also very excited to be here.

### **What languages do you speak, other than English and French?**

I studied German for 10 years, and I loved it! I studied abroad with my German teachers in Austria when I was in high school, which kind of gave me the travel bug as well. I also took Latin for close to 10 years.

### **Why do you teach French and Linguistics?**

My first training is in French and Francophone literatures, but also French linguistics, because I did my undergraduate work and my Masters at the Université de Paris III Sorbonne nouvelle. Back then, all of the programs where I went were 50% literature and 50% linguistics for the first three years. I loved them both, so I combined them, and I chose a topic that was l'Oralité dans le théâtre d'Antonine Maillet, who is an Acadian woman writer from Canada. So I found a way to mix linguistics and literature, and then when the time came to do my PhD, I decided to choose sociolinguistics. That's when I came to Louisiana State University and I studied Cajun French. My PhD is on the speech of Cajun French women. So I've never quite been able to choose between literature and linguistics, and at some point, it turned out that it was an asset on the job market to be able to do both.

### **What do you think most surprises your students?**

I think that all my students, wherever I've taught, have wanted to know why I immigrated to the United States and how I ended up here. I think this is good curiosity, and I think that maybe I was inspired by previous language teachers, who were not French, but either British, or German, or Canadian, and I think it's a good conversation starter.

### **What topics do you research?**

I have a few different things going on, but my main research topic is in sociolinguistics, and I study the linguistic and cultural representations of Francophone minorities in North America. That means that, if we take just the United States, I basically do field work, so I go and I interview and I record French speakers. My most recent field work was in New England. Before that, I studied the Cajuns in Louisiana. I also do research in film studies quite a bit, and I have an ongoing research project that I call "Paris in the Americas, Yesterday and Today." The goal of that project is to analyze the influence that Paris had on the 'New World.'

### **What is your favorite travel destination?**

I'm going to disqualify France, because I go there to visit my family. I love Québec City and Montréal, and in the summer, I love driving through Acadia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The people are very nice and there's just so much culture, and of course, some French speakers, but just a lot of culture: First Nations, the history of the French settlements, and the British and everything. It's fascinating to me, and that's where I love to go.



# FRENCH SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

## FRENCH SECTION NAVIGATES A TIME OF TRANSITION

As Furman returned to full classroom teaching in fall 2021, a sense of change was in the air. Dr. Cherie Maiden had just begun her well-deserved retirement that summer, and Dr. Bill Allen was shortly to announce his own with the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. Dr. Carole Salmon had just joined the staff as a full professor, with a wealth of experiences in university teaching and administration, and Dr. Marianne Bessy took on the mantle of Lois Aileen Coggins Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures upon Dr. Maiden's retirement. The Furman administration had announced new regulations necessitating generational change in French study away. Meanwhile, the generosity of anonymous donors had provided the French section with resources that have underwritten the development of new initiatives to enhance student learning and engagement with French and Francophone language and culture.

While we regretfully brought a close to nearly half a century of deep engagement with French culture in Versailles, we embarked on a search for a new study away provider in a different town, and we did so with the goal of recreating all the elements that made Versailles such a vibrant learning experience for generations of students: homestay with French families, challenging academics well-suited to our students, good public transportation, and travel opportunities in an interesting area of France. We settled on



Rennes, the regional capital of Brittany, and coincidentally the hometown of Dr. Bessy. The first group of students is now completing their semester away, as Dr. Salmon and Dr. Nathan Brown wrap up their direction of the program.

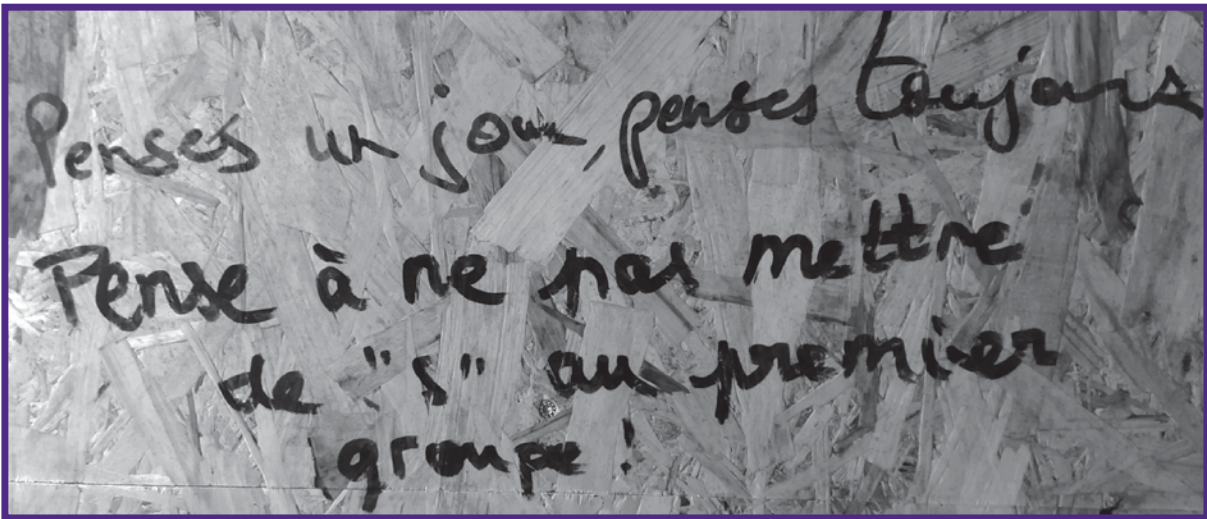
Our French curriculum continues to develop and diversify in response to current academic trends and the needs and interests of Furman students. Dr. Brown taught a new version of our 400-level French history course in spring 2021, while Dr. Daniel Worden created a new course on French thought entitled “Visions of



the Cosmos,” which carries credit for the GER Ultimate Questions; he also taught two French cinema courses. Dr. Salmon is reviving our French linguistics offerings as Furman students display greater interest in the history and science of language.

Although our Language House program remains on hiatus following the pandemic, we have sought to fill the gap left by our annual French Language House Assistants by hosting more professor led-events such

a new bi-monthly *Café avec les profs*, as well as continuing the weekly *Café Français* activities under the guidance of advanced undergraduates. Our students remain at the very center of our *raison d’être* in the French section. Our ongoing efforts to engage them in informal social activities and provide other opportunities to solidify their spoken French skills play an important and historical role in how we do “The Furman Advantage” in French.



Graffiti - Submitted by Ashton Nicewonger ('17)

# CATCHING UP WITH MORGAN CHURCHILL '20: IT'S A SMALL (TAPIF) WORLD AFTER ALL!

by Marianne Bessy

Among our recent alumnae who have participated in the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF), Morgan Churchill '20 was assigned to François-René de Chateaubriand High School in Combours, France. I was initially excited to hear that Morgan had selected my hometown—Rennes in Brittany—and its surrounding area as her top choice for her teaching assignment for the 2021-2022 academic year. I was even more excited when I learned that she would be working under the supervision of my college friend Ivan Chales, an English teacher at François-René de Chateaubriand High School. What a small world! Recently, I caught up with both Morgan and Ivan to find out what TAPIF means to them.

Thankfully, Morgan's first experience upon arriving in France in October—the high-speed train in which she was headed to Brittany being hit by a boar—did not set the tone for her TAPIF experience! When we chatted, Morgan had been in France for three weeks. She was happily settled in her apartment in Saint-Malo, a beautiful seaside town roughly 25 miles from Combours. Morgan shared that she enjoys exploring the city and its beaches as well as being forced to speak French to get by in her new surroundings. This 2019 Versailles program participant was excited by how much she understood: “somehow I know what's going on!” I think I also speak for my colleagues when I say that we are extremely proud of our TAPIF-participating alumni who



Pictured: Ivan Chales, Morgan Churchill, and Assistant Principal Anne Gesret in front of François-René de Chateaubriand High School in Combours, France. Not pictured: Principal Catherine Penvern.

get out of their comfort zone, capitalize on their years of French studies and study away experiences at Furman, and embark on a year of teaching in France. Morgan explained that she would recommend this experience to others, especially French majors, because it “made [her] feel really independent.”

Morgan is the first American assistant ever to work at François-René de Chateaubriand High School. Her role as she described it was similar to that of our Furman Language House Assistants. She worked with small groups of

students who were learning English. After a first week of teaching observations, she met with each group of students once a month, “trying to get everyone to speak as much English [as she] c[ould]” thanks to speaking activities and games she designed. She found her work environment welcoming. From hanging out in the teachers’ lounge and meeting new faces every day, to working with high schoolers who “ke[pt] [her] entertained,” Morgan “loved all of it.”

Ivan has been teaching English at François-René de Chateaubriand High School since 2008. Since 2020, he has also been supervising the English-speaking assistant assigned to his institution. Ivan explained that “working with a TAPIF assistant is absolutely fantastic.” He also stressed that, because “the vast majority of English teachers in France are more likely to have stayed in the British Isles than in the USA [...] it’s really interesting to hear about different approaches to how we teach here in France.” The TAPIF program also allows his students “to communicate with a native speaker,” an experience that the pandemic made difficult to foster since “international mobilities for students ha[d] mostly come to a stop.” Because the TAPIF language assistants were “the only people [...] with a strong connection to the outside world” for his students, their role took on a new dimension. We are very pleased that Morgan rose up to the challenge and shined as she brought such important experiences to high school students in Combourg!



# LIFE AND WORK EN FRANÇAIS: PARTICIPANTS IN THE TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAM IN FRANCE

## Parlez-vous English? Teach it!

The Teaching Assistants Program in France offers French majors the opportunity to live in France and get paid for teaching English.

While Lindsay Hammond ('20) cannot quite remember how she heard of the *Teaching Assistants Program in France* (TAPIF), her study away experience in Versailles, France convinced her to apply to it: "I knew I wanted to do that since I got back from Versailles." She asks rhetorically, "Who wouldn't want to spend a year living in France!?"

In fall of 2021, Lindsay, and five other Furman graduates were among the 1500 American English speakers selected by *France Éducation internationale* and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States to teach English in French schools across the country and overseas territories. Chosen participants are placed in schools where they teach 12 hours of English courses a week to primary and/or secondary school French students in exchange for a stipend of 785 euros (\$905) a month. The experience represents a rich cultural exchange and a high-impact coda to French majors' Furman pathway.

**With six accepted students, the 2021 – 2022 academic year was a banner year for the Furman French section and TAPIF.** Not only did we have a 100% success rate in placements, but our students were also one of the largest groups to apply. From major cities like Orléans and Lille to smaller ones like Villefranche-de-Rouergue in the Occitanie region to the South, and Bollène in Vaucluse near the Alpes, Furman graduates found their way to the four corners of France.



*On A Train* - Submitted by Ashton Nicewonger ('17)

It has been a very positive experience for our graduates. As Hammond writes, "I have learned so much about the French school system already and I adore working with the kids." Being in France after the COVID-19 pandemic closed international travel to Americans has also been a treat in itself, as Hammond notes: "Travel is such an amazing thing and I think we all realized how much we took it for granted before the shutdowns, so being here makes me realize how much I need to take full advantage of my time abroad."

Being in France is also good for French students. As Caitlin Facello ('20), who completed her

assistantship in Valenciennes, adds, “I am very grateful to be able to teach my students in person, as I know online classes have been a challenge for teachers and students alike.”

TAPIF is not an end in itself, of course, and represents a major steppingstone to graduate and professional schools. Major American institutions of higher education, like the University of Virginia, Middlebury College, Tulane University, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison, to name just a few, offer TAPIF Alumni Scholarships since they recognize the value of this experience in the development of language, cultural, and professional competencies.

In fact, one recent alumna of TAPIF, Ashton Nicewonger ('17), is currently pursuing her doctorate at the University of Virginia. She calls doing TAPIF “a wonderful decision.” As she explains, “not only did it familiarize me with the French education system and allow me to meet high school students, teachers, and other community members, providing true linguistic

immersion, but it also gave me the time and leisure to apply for Master of Arts programs back in the states and to start homing in on my academic research interests.”



*Breakfast - Submitted by Ashton Nicewonger ('17)*

# GERMAN SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

## NEW INSTRUCTORS, NEW FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIPS SHOW STRENGTHS IN GERMAN STUDIES

Coordinator Ilka Rasch

Hallo Allerseits,

So many great things have happened during the last year that I don't even know where to start. Our team was *über*-excited to welcome a new hire. Dr. Geraldine Poppke Suter started her new position as visiting professor in fall 2022. For her undergraduate degree, she studied at the Philipps-Universität

Marburg (Germany) as well as Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, VA), and received her PhD in German with a Certificate in Comparative Literature from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. She has worked as instructor and visiting scholar at the Freie Universität Berlin, James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA), and Bridgewater College





(Bridgewater, VA). She came to us from the University of Hong Kong, where she served as the Director of the German Program. We are also currently getting ready for a new search in German studies. The administration has allowed us to re-open one of our previous tenure track lines and we will be able to offer a permanent position in our team next fall.

In spite of numerous pandemic restrictions, our study abroad programs have been flourishing in the past two years and more German studies graduates than ever before are now studying or teaching in Germany and Austria post-graduation. While we were unable to offer our faculty-led program to Berlin in spring 2022, we were able to work with third party providers in Berlin and Vienna, and our majors did study abroad during the spring semester. In May of this year, we successfully offered our extremely popular faculty-led May X “The Rhine: Life on the Line” for the third time. Under the guidance of Anne Culberson and Dr. Emily Krauter, 18 students explored the geographical, historical, commercial, political, and cultural specificities of the border area where, along the line of the Rhine River, today’s France and Germany meet. In spring 2023, both instructors will take 11 students to Germany, this time to spend the whole semester at the Freie Universität Berlin. We hope that some of our students will take the opportunity and spend time in Germany over the summer, working as interns in the area of their expertise. If you have any leads regarding internships abroad, please let us know.

Currently, three of our former students received very competitive fellowships for a master’s program in Germany. Piper Powell received the prestigious DAAD fellowship for a master in neuroscience at the University

of Osnabrück. Aishwarya Tripathi and Samantha Whittle are currently studying at the Hertie School, a private graduate school for governance, focusing on public policy, international affairs, and data science, located in Berlin. Last but not least, we also had a record number of Fulbright Germany and Fulbright Austria fellows during the last two years. Two years ago, we began to encourage our majors to apply to the Fulbright Austria (USTA) in addition to the Fulbright Germany (ETA) and our students’ success has been impressive. In 2021, one student received a Fulbright fellowship for Germany and 4 students went on a Fulbright to Austria. 2022 was another extremely successful year. Four of our majors were offered the record number of six Fulbright ETAs total – two for Germany and four for Austria. Since some of our Furman majors decided to spend a second year abroad, we currently have 6 students on a Fulbright in Germany or Austria. *Wahnsinn!*

I also would like to say a few things “*in eigener Sache.*” On very short notice, I had to take a medical leave of absence this past year. I have been overwhelmed by the support I have received from my institution, colleagues, students, and parents. There were many moments when I was at my wits’ end and out of nowhere I received much needed support or help from the Furman community. I could not have done it without you. *Vielen, vielen Dank!!!* I am beyond grateful to be back in the classroom this semester.

We wish you all the best and as always, please stay in touch. We miss you!

*Ilka Rasch*

# ***FULBRIGHT EXPERIENCES IN AUSTRIA***

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## ***TOM FEINGOLD '21,***

***GERMAN STUDIES & POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAJOR;  
FULBRIGHT AUSTRIA U.S. TEACHING ASSISTANT 2021-22***

My experience as an English Teaching Assistant in Innsbruck, Austria has been a rewarding and challenging opportunity that has allowed me to mature personally and professionally directly after my graduation from Furman. Living independently abroad has certainly brought its share of stressful moments - for example, trying to find and communicate with an emergency electrician in a foreign language and a new environment - and the separation from close friends and family has been tough at times. However, the need to overcome these obstacles individually has enhanced my ability to solve problems and helped me to develop an enduring self-assurance in the face of adversity. Furthermore, I have absolutely loved the chance to learn from others with a different cultural background and immerse myself in a new and unique environment. I am thrilled with my job placement in two different high schools and have tried to take advantage of the opportunity to develop relationships with students and colleagues. I am incredibly appreciative of the chance to continue learning German in an immersive environment and the chance to learn something completely new - skiing! I highly recommend exploring the possibility to teach abroad to any students who are interested, and I am especially grateful to the teachers and advisors in the MLL department at Furman who helped guide me towards this experience.



# ***FULBRIGHT EXPERIENCES IN AUSTRIA***

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## ***SOPHIE KLASS '21,***

***GERMAN STUDIES & POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAJOR;  
FULBRIGHT AUSTRIA U.S. TEACHING ASSISTANT 2021/22***

I have been given the wonderful opportunity to work as an English teaching assistant in Vienna as part of Fulbright Austria's U.S. Teaching Assistant program. I am currently working at two different Austrian secondary schools where I am responsible for conducting lessons on topics that help students broaden their knowledge of the U.S., while also practicing their English language skills for the Matura, which is the exam students take at the end of their high school career. Even though I am working as a teacher, I feel that I learn just as much from my students as they do from me. What I appreciate most about the Fulbright USTA program is that it allows for an exchange between cultures to take place. Living and working in Vienna has fulfilled my desire to study abroad, especially because Covid made this difficult for me during my junior year of college. The Fulbright USTA program has instilled life-long professional skills that I have already started to notice, including an improvement in my public speaking, teaching and communication abilities. I would highly recommend the Fulbright Austria USTA program for anyone who is interested in spending a year abroad, mainly because of the personal growth that participants experience while living in another country.





# *STUDYING AWAY IN BERLIN, GERMANY*

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## *BETH PALMISANO '22,*

### *GERMAN MAJOR*

The opportunity that I had to live and study in Berlin this past Fall was incommensurable. Total immersion through aspects like 12 hours of German class a week, living with a host family, and simply existing in a different culture not only gave me a better grasp of the language and German culture, but also a better understanding of myself. Other experiences such as conquering public transportation for the first time and establishing strong relationships with people from such different backgrounds made me into a more confident and flexible person while simultaneously broadening my worldview. Berlin is such a vibrant city with many opportunities to learn and enjoy yourself—I could not get enough of it. I will always cherish the amazing memories I made through the program, especially with the other Furman students and my host family (and their cat) and could not be more grateful for the time I spent in Berlin. It is, without a doubt, the best and most impactful part of my experience as a Furman student, and I will take any excuse to return!



# SPANISH SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

## SPANISH MAJOR CONTINUES TO THRIVE

*Twenty-four Spanish majors graduated in the spring of 2021, with twenty-six more in spring 2022!*

The biggest news for us is sharing how we adapted to the pandemic. Once we were able to resume off campus activities, we hosted guests on campus, went back out into the community to complete service learning and internships, and directed student-faculty research, which sometimes culminated in regional conference presentations. All of these experiences were a welcome return to normalcy.

The Hispanic presence in the greater Greenville area continues to grow. In the fall of 2021, the City of Greenville and the Hispanic Alliance hosted Mexican Artist Jorge Marin's "Wings of the City" exhibition. Nine bronze statues were placed throughout Falls Park and the Peace Center, which was a

welcome celebration and acknowledgement of how the demographics of this region are changing. As a class requirement, all the students in both sections of Dr. Lozano-Alonso's Spanish 260 Hispanics in the United States class participated in the #WingsoftheCityGVL Instagram photo challenge. The competition was sponsored by the [Jorge Marín Foundation](#), [Hispanic Alliance](#) and the [Consulate General of Mexico](#) in Raleigh, North Carolina. What was just meant as a fun classroom activity for students to explore downtown and engage with the community, resulted in Furman University students sweeping the podium. Dani Boyette ('22 Spanish and Communication) won first prize, Kate Massey ('22 Education) won second place and Cameron Baird ('24 Spanish and Business) won third. See the article [here.](#)

Dr. Jeff Michno, Dr. Stephanie Knouse, and Morgen Smith (2021) organized and hosted





May X - Medical Spanish, led by Dr. Maria Rippon. Students spent two weeks in the classroom then spent the final week shadowing interpreters in a healthcare setting in the Greenville community.

The Spanish Linguistics in the Southeast (SLISE) Conference at Furman's new downtown venue, Furman 101, earning praise from attendees from NC State, Wake Forest, UNC Chapel Hill, UGA, and Davidson, among others.

In-person internships also resumed during this academic year. Dr. Maria Rippon oversaw Liz Mercedes ('21) in an internship with Prisma Health Language Services. Cynthia Oliver ('23 Spanish and Public Health) who happened to participate in Neighborhood Focus as a child, was the year-long Neighborhood Focus Fellow. Nick Curcio ('22 Spanish and Communication) interned with the United States Attorney's Office and had the opportunity to use his Spanish with translating audio and video files on human trafficking cases. Katherine McCann (Spanish and Biology-Biomedical Sciences '23) and Julia McCabe (Spanish and Sustainability Science '23) worked with Safe Harbor translating the domestic violence prevention organization's social media into Spanish.

Although Furman's faculty-led programs were still halted during 2021-2022 due to the pandemic, ten students studied in Madrid in

Fall 2021 and seven studied in Chile in Spring 2022 through IES.

Recent Spanish major alumni are using their Spanish skills in a variety of fields. Lizzy Melton ('20 Spanish and Health Science) is completing an accelerated B.S.N. at Clemson and she has used her Spanish in clinical rotations. Alex Forrest Dupre ('17 Spanish), Class of 2017, works for Access Health—a health insurance agency. She uses her Spanish to connect patients to primary care providers. Daniel Sarkela is now completing a concurrent MA in Latin American Studies and Guitar Performance at the University of Florida. Jack Markowitz ('22 Sustainability Science and Spanish) is completing graduate studies at Yale's School of the Environment, and his Masters thesis will study environmental governance in Chile.

During the 2021-2022 academic year we hired assistant professor Dr. Juan Garrido-Pozu and associate professor Dr. Mahan Ellison ('03) to join the Spanish section. We are thrilled to welcome them to our *familia* and look forward to when you can meet them in person.

# ***SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN THE DEPARTMENT***

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## ***UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN FRENCH:***

### ***Science Fiction and Fairy Tales from the 1600s***

A team of three Furman research fellows from the summer of 2020, Caitlin Facello '21, Gracey Greco '21, and Scarlett Holton '21, worked with Dr. Daniel J. Worden, co-authoring a journal article on a space travel narrative by early queer science fiction author Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac (1619-1655). In summer 2021, a new undergraduate research team, Sherrill Brantley '22, Molly Cribb '22, and Lauren Pollino '23, studied portrayals of race and gender in fairy tales by Marie-Catherine d'Aulnoy (1650-1705), with Dr. Worden. As part of the project, they explored the remarkable and growing collection of French printed books from the 1600s and 1700s in Special Collections and Archives at the James B. Duke Library.

## ***UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN GERMAN:***

### ***Pronouncing "Water"***

Caitlin Roberson, a German and Business double major, presented original research at Furman Engaged! 2022. Her project investigated regional variation regarding the pronunciation of the word "water," specifically looking at the realization of the "t." Caitlin collected data and interviewed study participants on Furman's campus as part of her final project in GRM 430. She discussed the methodology and results of this linguistic project at *Furman Engaged!*

## ***UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN SPANISH:***

### ***The Spanish in the Upstate Project***

Dra. Knouse worked with Cynthia Oliver Zavaleta (Spanish and Public Health '23) on a project studying the use of Spanish in the Upstate. Together they analyzed interview data qualitatively through a raciolinguistic approach. Dra. Rojas worked with Daniel Sarkela (Spanish and Music '22) and Josebell Rivadeneira-Cevallos (Anthropology and WGSS '22) to do research during summer 2020-2021. The three of them presented that research on a panel on Contemporary Latin American Protest Music at MIFLC in fall 2021.





# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

## SEND US YOUR UPDATES

We are still gathering information on what our alumni are up to professionally and personally. To complete the MLL Alumni Survey, please do so here: [bit.ly/2b3rHqb](https://bit.ly/2b3rHqb). If you've done this survey and would like to update us on a recent accomplishment, please use the following link: [bit.ly/2eeNcEZ](https://bit.ly/2eeNcEZ).

To make a gift to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures visit [furman.edu/giving](https://furman.edu/giving). Select Academic Excellence then enter Modern Languages and Literatures in the comments.

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Thank you to the many colleagues and modern language students who contributed to this edition of *The Palingual*. Please feel free to email us at [mll.alum@furman.edu](mailto:mll.alum@furman.edu) or write us at The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, SC 29613.

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