LOOK, LISTEN, CARE...
LLC

Welcome to our Special Edition Newsletter to Celebrate our Accomplished Students of the Class of 2020

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Madeline Strah ('20)

Madeline conducted a study titled 'French Vowel Substitutions of American English learners of French', where she reported her findings in a poster that is showcased in the Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity (CURC) Gallery!

“I chose my topic because I have always struggled with pronunciation, especially with vowels, and I was curious if other students like me had the same issues.” - Madeline

A little bit about Madeline: Madeline is a 23 year old from Loveland, Colorado who loves anything outdoors. Due to her mom’s encouragement to study French and her visit to France when she was 17 years old, she developed a passion for the French culture.
Korean Language Learner's Scholarship

Congratulations to Abigail Thomas, Alanis Hernandez, Kimberly Rivers, and Maile Wood for receiving the Korean Language Learner’s Scholarship! The Korean Community surrounding Fort Collins (Korean Church of Fort Collins, Korean ROTC Association of Colorado, and Suh Korean BBQ) has generously donated $15,200 for this scholarship to be awarded to four of our Korean students this year, and for many years to come. We appreciate the Korean Community coming together to share their love for CSU students and allow these four students to receive a scholarship that will help fund their time here at CSU!

Sydney Spiegel & Caroline Dunphy - Boren Award Winners

Congratulations to Sydney Spiegel and Caroline Dunphy for earning the prestigious David. L. Boren Scholarships. Their hard work is recognized as this award will give them the opportunity to study abroad and gain language skills and international experience.

Sydney plans to study Mandarin in China. He will use his understanding of Mandarin to further his career in engineering and become a liaison in terms of communication between international teams.

Caroline plans to study Japanese in Japan. She is interested in applying her liberal arts background and anthropological perspective to marine conservation efforts in Japan.
2020 LLC Scholarship Recipients

A big congratulations to our LLC Scholarship Recipients! They put in the work, and it definitely shows! We are so proud of them!

Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Isabel Douce
Emily Balentine
Mary Swing

Justin Lee Cook Memorial Scholarship
Lorelei Bahnemann

Study Abroad
Jennifer Gutierrez

T&M Beecken, Alumni and Friends Scholarship
Tiffany Garcia

Ronald W. Walker Graduate Award for Excellence in Teaching
Hasnaa el Hannach ben Hammou

Ronald W. Walker Graduate Award for Excellence in Scholarship
Eryth Zecher

Gloria Leyva Dubin Award
Jess Egnatovich

2020 CSU Scholarship Recipients

Critical Language Scholarship
Thany Dykson (Spanish Minor)
Natalie Montecino (French and Japanese Minors)

Fulbright Scholarship
Hannah Hurlbut (Chinese Minor)

Goldwater Scholarship
Raegen Petch (Spanish Minor and Animal Care Certificate recipient)
Jessica Roberts (Spanish Minor)

NOAA Hollings Scholarship
Izabella Mastroianni (Spanish Minor)
Congratulations, graduates, on finishing your degree with us. This semester has been unforgettable, and your work has been nothing less than heroic. More than ever, the world needs people like you who understand culture and literature from the context of the native language. The faculty of LLC are proud of the great work you have done and excited to see the contributions you will make. This year CSU celebrated its 150th anniversary. I know that 150 years from now, future students of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures will be inspired by your example, and encouraged by your dedication to the Liberal Arts.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Carlyon
Chair, Dept. of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Dear Graduates,

It has been a true pleasure getting to know all of you over the last few years. One of my favorite things as an advisor is the chance to see the Languages graduates every spring - I very much miss the chance to have that moment to congratulate you in person. Many of you shared with me life changing experiences while you studied abroad, and your postcards remain on my wall. Some of you overcame significant personal challenges and succeeded nonetheless. No matter your path, you all achieved a level of global citizenship that can only come from learning another language, and that is something I truly admire about you. Good luck, and do not hesitate to keep me updated on your future endeavors!

Sincerely,
Kelly McGregor
Academic Success Coordinator
Dear LLC Graduates/Fellow colleagues:

Thank you for all the dedication, passion and hard work that you all have shown during your time here with us at LLC, and congratulations! We are happy to have been part of your academic growth, and we wish you the best in all your future endeavors, wherever they may take you. You are the best ambassadors that this institution has, and we hope the memories of your time here will be as warm as the ones that you are leaving us with. Please keep us posted with all of your successes, and do enjoy a well-deserved Summer Vacation! ¡Felicitaciones, clase de 2020!

Antonio Pedrós-Gascón
Graduate Program Coordinator, LLC

Master of Arts in Languages, Literatures, and Cultures - French Specialization
Eryth Zecher

Master of Arts in Languages, Literatures, and Cultures - Spanish Specialization
Sharon Darkwah
Jess Egnatovich
Lucia Gil-Martin
Hasnaa el Hannach ben Hammou
Maile Okamoto
French Majors

Congratulations TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

Alissa Allen

- It is a pleasure to work with a student like Alissa who always strives to learn more and be better. We have to toot a horn for her because she won’t toot for herself. - Mary Vogl

- Alissa was a joy to have in class! - Gretchen O’Dell

Stephanie Felt

- A beautiful heart filled with kindness, enthusiasm, positive work ethics and smiles. - Frederique Grim

- If I were a student looking for a class to choose, I might be less picky about the instructor and more enthusiastic about making sure that Stephanie was my classmate. Though she has gone through some struggles of her own, she is always there to cheer on the other students with a big smile, a kind word, a compliment, an expression of concern on her sweet face. - Mary Vogl

- Stephanie was such a positive, thoughtful person to have in class! - Gretchen O’Dell

- An exemplary student, serious, and accomplished in all her classes, and who, despite her busy schedule, was a great help with the Cercle Français! She always greets you with a friendly and honest smile and a kind word! Happy you are pursuing a degree in translation. Middlebury will welcome you with open arms! - Marie-Jo Hofmann

Maggie Marsh

- Maggie will become a teacher that will bring strength to her students through her smiles and patience. - Frederique Grim

- Full of joy and a pinch of sarcasm, Maggie is getting her teacher licensure. - Mary Vogl

- Congratulations Maggie! I’m confident that your thoughtfulness, brilliance, and passion will make you a great French teacher and your students will be lucky to have a teacher like you! - Nyssa Knarvik

- The first French class Maggie took @ CSU (I think!) was my LFRE310 course, and she was great to have in class - always interested in the material, and enthusiastic about participating! - Gretchen O’Dell
Congratulations TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

• Madeline is an example of perseverance and curiosity, through her research-minded goals. -Frederique Grim

• Madeline is passionate about language and culture. She is planning a wedding for this coming year to a Louisiana native so she is learning all about cadien and creole languages. Laissez les bons temps rouler! -Mary Vogl
  • I really enjoyed having Maddie in class and working on the Cercle Français with her! -Gretchen O’Dell

• A positive attitude and motivation!!! She has a great love for the French language and was always working on perfecting her pronunciation, which led her to her research in linguistics. A generosity without equal to generate participation in the activities of the Cercle Français. Happy about your engagement this semester! -Marie-Jo Hofmann

Raymond Suny

• Raymond has a gift for learning French and will hopefully do much with it! -Frederique Grim

• Laid-back Raymond plans to move to Seattle and use his education in entrepreneurship to advance his music projects. He plays guitar and Mouth Sounds in the band The Sickly Hecks. -Mary Vogl
  • It was so fun having Raymond in class! -Gretchen O’Dell

• A very nice young man with a lot of potential who, in his classes, always displaying an equal disposition, half serious … half amused! -Marie-Jo Hofmann

Lauren Thompson

• Lauren is passionate about Francophone cultures and loves literature. She is working with an organization, Loving Haiti, and learning Haitian creole. She has been accepted to the Master’s program in French at the University of New Orleans. -Mary Vogl
  • It was wonderful having Lauren in class and I’m so excited about the Masters program she’ll be doing @ UNO!!! I cannot wait to hear about! -Gretchen O’Dell
  • Always ready to participate and ask questions! A very expressive facial look that conveys meaning … we immediately know that a question is going to be asked or that a comment is going to be made! - Marie-Jo Hofmann
• After graduating, Maria was planning to look for jobs in Colorado, but after a presentation by our MA student Eryth Zecher about careers using French, she became enthusiastic about returning to Europe and is applying to do a Master’s in French in Amsterdam.
  -Mary Vogl

• Rather shy, soft spoken, Maria is very kind and helpful to those who work with her! A serious student, she dreams of becoming an interpreter in Brussels … for NATO or the Union européenne? Don’t abandon your dreams! -Marie-Jo Hofmann

Maria Vahrenhorst

• Chris has such a kind personality, with much enthusiasm for the French language and francophone cultures!
  -Frederique Grim

• Chris is a double major in LLC-French and Biology and he professes a deep love for both fields. I have had the pleasure of teaching him in four classes. He can speak in fluent French (no crib notes for Chris!) about France’s environmental conservation efforts, about coral reefs in New Caledonia, or the destruction caused by monocultures and napalm in Vietnam.
  -Mary Vogl

• I really appreciated Chris's enthusiasm and love of learning!
  -Gretchen O'Dell

• Chris is a fine young man with excellent qualities that promise to bring him success in a career in biology and French. He shows great self-confidence and a summer in Senegal provided him with a great experience, not only in the practice of French but also in exploring a different culture.  Marie-Jo Hofmann

Chris Vela
Having Lacey in our upper-division German courses meant having a steady stream of thought-provoking, insightful comments and ideas to propel our discussions. It was enriching for classmates and professors alike, and I am very grateful for her contributions.  

-Rachel Kirby

Lacey was very engaged in the CSU German Club. She did a tremendous job of being the club secretary for two years, keeping club members and the community informed about events and volunteering opportunities. Lacey regularly helped organize cultural and community events and was also an active participant of the conversational group. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

-Frankie Wilcox

Danny is a gentle person and was a calming influence in our courses, with a genuine love of German culture and language. I hope that he will land back in Germany sometime very soon to continue his exploration of both.  

-Rachel Kirby

One of the delights of having Carl in class was his candor – there was never any doubt where he stood on a given topic. He also has a true gift for language learning, and I am certain he will put it to good use professionally.  

-Rachel Kirby
Eloise Blatherwick

- Eloise is not just a highly accomplished student of German language and culture; her presence was a veritable ray of sunshine in our courses. What a pleasure it was to have that positivity and enthusiasm for seemingly every topic we explored together. -Rachel Kirby

- Eloise is a diligent and bright student who has excelled academically. She was also an active member of the CSU German Club, and was engaged in leading the club as the vice president this past year. Eloise took advantage of the great opportunity of studying abroad in Bamberg, Germany, which provided her with a valuable cultural experience and improved her language skills. She is a bright light, and we look forward to hearing about her future successes.

-Frankie Wilcox

Dingning Chen

- After completing her first major in Biological Science, Dingning managed to achieve a high level of proficiency in German at a very accelerated rate. Her humble, soft-spoken presence in the classroom will be missed. Congratulations on her admission to German graduate study at Georgetown University! -Rachel Kirby

- Dingning is an incredibly motivated and hard-working learner with a strong desire for academic excellence. She achieved great academic success during her time at CSU, and we wish her all the best in her graduate studies.

-Frankie Wilcox

Brandon Mendoza

- Behind Brandon’s casual, easy-going exterior lurks the passion of an artist. It was fun to discover that, and always a pleasure to have his smiling demeanor in class. -Rachel Kirby
Carine Colwell

- Felicitaciones Carine! I wish you all the best in the future and I know you will be successful in anything you choose to do! -Nyssa Knarvik

- Enhorabuena, Carine, how many steps have you taken since el Camino 2017? I wish you the best as you begin the next part of your Camino! -Jonathan Carlyon

Abbey Ervin

- Muchas felicidades, Abbey! You are one of the most sensitive, intelligent, and outspoken students I have ever had. It was indeed an honor to be part of your academic journey. I am sure your future will be bright, and you will keep defending your ideas and raising your voice to claim equal rights and social justice for women. -Maria Ines Canto Carillo

- I will remember your dedication to the two classes that you have completed with me this semester. I will also remember your maturity and professionalism when communicating with your professors and completing all assignments. The class presentations with advanced proficiency level on the history of the language and culture, and the two final projects on the differences between modern generations (Z and “ni-ni”) in Spain and the US, and Spanish in the US are clear samples of mature and well developed work. Congratulations Abby, you will reach your personal and professional goals! -José Luis Suárez-García

Monica Lewton

- Enhorabuena, Monica. I can’t believe only a year ago our group was getting ready to head to Spain for the Camino 2019! I’m excited to see where the next stage of your Camino will take you. -Jonathan Carlyon
Congratulations TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

- ¡Felicitaciones! Best wishes for a successful future!
  - Andrea Purdy

- Congratulations Mo, you are now ready to explore the world! I know this semester has been hard, but you made it! I am glad you were in my classes. Completing the task is about commitment and dedication, and you were always there ready to learn, enthusiastic and excited about the topics and the discussions. Keep learning and smiling, you deserve it!
  - José Luis Suárez-García

- I’m very happy to have been a part of your journey here at CSU and to have seen how much you’ve learned and grown over the past year. I know that with your intelligence, thoughtfulness, and perseverance you’ll be successful at anything you choose to do. ¡Felicitaciones Brenden!
  - Nyssa Knarvik
    - ¡Felicitaciones Brenden! Your love of language and its structure is second to none. I have enjoyed following you through your studies. It was a blast having you in my classes. Best wishes with your skateboarding.
  - Andrea Purdy

- Enhorabuena, Brenden. I would never have imagined the first grader who went to the same school as my daughter would end up graduating with a degree in Spanish. Well done!
  - Jonathan Carlyon
    - I remember Brenden as a student with a keen interest for linguistic analysis, who had the resilience and perseverance to persist in this interest even in the face of great difficulties.
  - Maura Velazquez-Castillo

- ¡Felicitaciones!, I am just sorry I didn’t have you in more of my classes. Good luck in your future endeavors.
  - Andrea Purdy
Congratulations TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

Yeseni Martinez Ribota

Maria Orosco-Martinez

Kaela Furlong
Congratulations
TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

- ¡Felicitaciones Rae! What a great achievement! It doesn’t seem possible that a year ago you were in my class. Good luck in your future!
  - Andrea Purdy

- ¡Felicitaciones! I still remember when you took my LSPA 400 class and then went abroad to Argentina and loved the experience so much that you majored in Spanish. Having the pleasure of your company in my LSPA 347 this past semester was the icing on the cake. Keep on running those marathons. Having you work in the Education Abroad Office was great as I knew that you would do a great job guiding our students.
  - Andrea Purdy

- Thanks for your enthusiasm about Spanish. Yes “La Rosalía” (I know you love her music and dance) is a great icon of Spanish culture. Keep learning about flamenco and about modern music. Enjoy your well deserved graduation. Congratulations Brianna!
  - José Luis Suárez-García

- ¡Felicitaciones Brianna! I wish you all the best in your future projects. I know for sure that you will do an outstanding job wherever you go.
  - Carmen Martin
• James is a very dedicated and caring student. I am very proud of his work in the certificate in Spanish for Animal Health and Care. There is no doubt that he'll be positive addition to the veterinary field! -Shannon Zeller

• ¡Felicitaciones! We have know each other a while. Good luck in your future graduate studies. You will make an amazing veterinarian. I am only sorry that Zoom didn't allow me to be a part of your thesis defense on The Importance of Speaking another Language in the Veterinary Medicine Field." -Andrea Purdy

• ¡Felicitaciones! Meeting you in LSPA 400 and then working with you on your Honors Thesis was a fabulous experience. The topic - "Understanding Race Issues Through Exploration and Practice" was such a beautifully told journey where you examined issues of privilege in immigration issues and your experiences of trying to learn about DACA, the Detention Center in Colorado and working with Borderlinks. Doing it in the form of an autoethnography made it even more illuminating and very personal. -Andrea Purdy

• ¡Felicitaciones! You are now officially a graduate. What a pleasure to have you in my class for your last semester. Go forth and conquer! -Andrea Purdy

• ¡Felicitaciones Courtney! It was wonderful having you in my class this semester - you have a wonderful future ahead of you and I wish you the best in everything! -Nyssa Knarvik
Congratulations

TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

Shalyn Ortiz-D'Amico

Ashley Shogren

Hannah Weiseler
Congratulations TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

- ¡Felicitaciones! Who would have thought you were going to major when you were in my class. That seems so long ago. Yay for your achievement!
  -Andrea Purdy

- Enhorabuena, Lindsay. I remember our LSPA310, but I most recall the great help you have given to LLC's Race, Bias, and Equity initiative. I know you will carry your love of language and your concern for other cultures with you always.
  -Jonathan Carlyon

- Dear Lindsay, thanks for surviving several of my courses! It's been such a joy to have you in the class and watch you dissect literature and culture, with a smile always on your face, and always prepared for discussion. I hope your experience here at CSU has been as positive as you have made mine with you as a student. Congratulations!
  -Antonio Pedrós-Gascón

- ¡Felicitaciones! What a great achievement. Don't stop dreaming!
  -Andrea Purdy

- Congratulations Yocelyn! Best of luck in all your future endeavors.
  -Carmen Martín
Congratulations TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

- Enhorabuena, Elizabeth. I remember our LSPA335 and I am overjoyed to see you have completed the major!
  -Jonathan Carlyon

- It was great to see you enjoying the class with your questions and feedback on the presentations. It is exciting to see how a student that has developed her language skills at College has now essentially the language proficiency skills of a native speaker, what a great accomplishment. Keep smiling and congratulation!
  -José Luis Suárez-García

- Felicitaciones Daniela! Te deseo todo lo mejor!
  -Carmen Martin

- Great work Chris! Thanks for being in my classes, a while ago in 310, and recently in my Capstone Seminar. It is exciting to see the maturity of your personality, and the professional level of your academic work. I have also seen your final Engineering Project (El Pital and Las Tablas Water Project), a piece of art that deserves to be published. I am glad we had nice conversations about your professional projects, and your connection with Chile, its people, language (the theme of your final Capstone Paper) and culture. Thank you also for caring about your professors and how they feel! I know you will reach your goals. Congratulation! -José Luis Suárez-García

- Enhorabuena, Chris. I'll miss your dropping by to say hello and to show me pictures of your trips. I know, now, you are about to start an amazing journey, and Spanish will be a big part of this. -Jonathan Carlyon

- Elizabeth Ramer

- Chris Zabalaga

- Daniela Navarro
Congratulations TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

- I will always remember Nicole as one of the best Lingüistics students I have had. She has great motivation, analytical ability, and linguistic sensitivity, and is able to discern even the most subtle nuances of language, all this while using class contents to build her communicative competence in Spanish.  -Maura Velazquez-Castillo

- Dear Nicole, what a joy to have been part of your academic time here! Your warm personality and work ethic, together with sharp analytical skills and breadth of interests, all point you in a great direction. Enjoy life’s next ride!  -Antonio Pedrós-Gascón

- ¡Felicitaciones Sandra! Espero que todos tus proyectos se cumplan y que sigas trabajando de la manera comprometida y generosa en la que has trabajado hasta ahora. Congrats!  -Carmen Martin

- Querida Sandra, thank you for all your social commitment and engagement in our program, for your inquisitive nature and your incredibly warm and engaging personality, for your capacity to confront problems and excel. Wherever life takes you, people will be lucky to have you around (hopefully, here in CSU)!  -Antonio Pedrós-Gascón

- Dear Mireya (aka next door neighbor), Congratulations for your success in this amazing experience that is undergraduate education. Thanks for your warmth and kindness, and I wish you the best in this new stage of life that lies ahead of you. Enjoy Denver and have a great time con tu gente, that I’m sure are so happy to have you back!  -Antonio Pedrós-Gascón