

ELON UNIVERSITY  
SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

# *WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES*



(Above) Making origami at the Lunar New Year celebration, (Below) Lighting candles at the Sigma Delta Pi induction ceremony



# Contents

---

## Students in the Spotlight

- Arabic Club, 3
- French Student Research, 4-6

## Faculty Highlights

- Mina García: Social Justice Through Spanish Literature, 8
- Kristin Lange: German Studies, 9

## Stories from Abroad

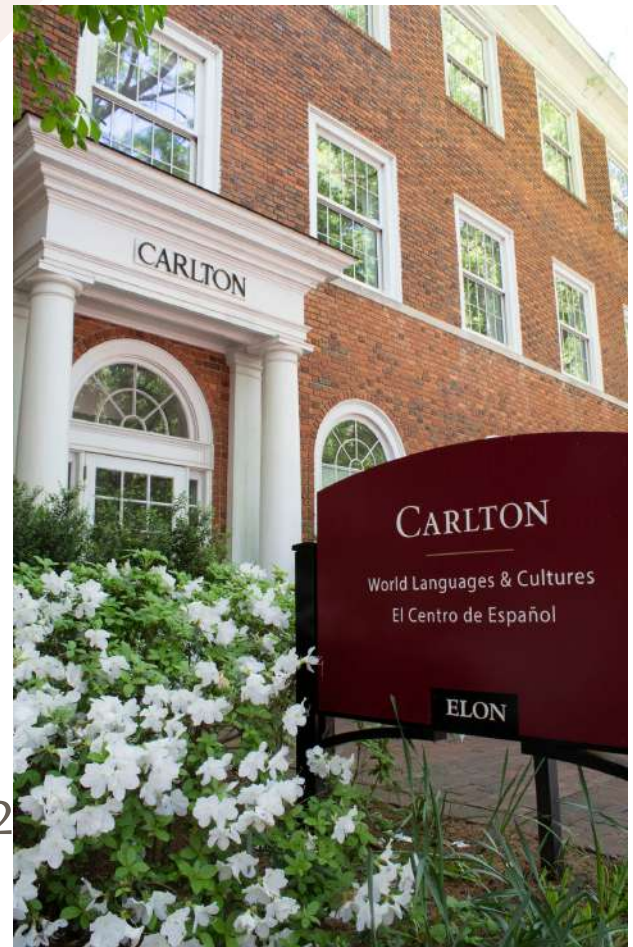
- Fullbright Scholar Update, 11-12
- Teaching in Florence, 13-14

## Language Highlights

- New Classical Studied Major, 15
- German Horror Cinema, 16
- French Theatre in Production, 17-18
- Combined German Courses, 19
- Language Resources, 20-23

## Guest Speakers

- Antonio Ortuño, 24
- Fred Kuwornu, 25-26



## Events on Campus

- Lunar New Year, 27-28
- Polyglot Lunches, 29
- Indigenous Resistance Webinar, 30-33
- Sigma Delta Pi Induction Ceremony, 34

## Senior Awards



# Arabic Club

By: Ashley Hanlon

Here at Elon, the Arabic Language Organization is open to anyone with a background or an interest in learning more about the language or culture surrounding Arabic. This club likes to meet around two to three times a month, but due to the shift to online sessions, the organization has unfortunately not been able to meet as much. On average, this club will host about fifteen members, especially during its most popular meetings – the cooking sessions. Dr. Elgamal, with the help of members, makes a variety of food for club meetings. Recent favorites have been shakshuka, falafel, kunafa and baklava.

The cooking is an all immersive experience. Rather than watching a few people do most of the work students are tasked with one thing or another. This organization is also a fan of hosting events where previous study abroad students who

lived in Arabic countries can speak more on their personal experiences. This serves to educate any members who may want to do something similar.

“By far my favorite memories with the Arabic Language Organization include anything where we cook. This is where the club feels more like a group of friends than anything else. We always encourage members to bring friends or roommates to these and the energy in the room while different groups of people are cooking and eating together at the same time is something I have yet to experience anywhere else on this campus.”

- Club President, Stewart Mitchell



# French Student Research

By: Ashley Hanlon

This spring semester on SURF Day, four undergraduate students in their senior seminar (French 465) presented their research findings entirely in French. With only their abstract in English, these students were able to exemplify their mastery of the language and showcase their cognitive thinking skills in one final paper and presentation. Faculty advisor, Professor Glasco, took the opportunity to task students to try and frame their research topics in a global context and investigate them through a social justice lens.



**Ally Curran** is double majoring in French and Communication Design. Her project is entitled “Image is Everything: #MeToo Vs. #BalanceTonPorc and focuses on the cultural differences and implications of these two movements that aim to expose and take action against sexual violence. When asked to give a brief summary of what her research goals are, Ally said she wishes to “expose the gap in current research by explaining that even though the two different hashtags are aimed towards survivors of sexual violence, the context of each is independent from the other, in that #MeToo illuminates survivors while #BalanceTonPorc focuses on outing the attacker.” In order to accomplish this difficult task, she further explained the importance of utilizing a “methodology that includes a collection and analysis of a series of previous studies on the two movements, both separately and directly compared to one another, in order to determine similar and contrasting aspects.” When asked about the challenges Ally has had to overcome in her research, she said, “Since it’s a cultural comparison, it has been interesting to see in both the American context and the French context; [however], it has been difficult to find the right kind of articles since finding key words in different languages is a complex task.”



**Lucia Lozano Robledo** is a double major in French and International Studies with minors in Latin American Studies and African and African American Studies. Her project is entitled “Traumatic Memory in Marie-Célie Agnant’s *Femmes aux temps des carnassiers* and *Le Livre d’Emma*.” Considering the holistic impact of trauma in addition to outside factors, Robledo’s research illuminates how Agnant’s characters survive and navigate traumatic memories of the past, and how those can be integrated into and haunt the present. *Femmes aux temps des carnassiers* considers the intergenerational psychological impacts of decades-long terror in the context of the Duvalier dictatorships in Haiti while traumatic memory plays a critical role in the development of the protagonist in *Le Livre d’Emma* as well. Implications related to mental health and how memory is constructed and embedded in historical recollection at governmental, familial, and individual levels are raised in Robledo’s analysis.



**Julia Madden** has majors in both French and Finance. Her project is entitled “Immigrant and Refugee Struggles as Revealed in Narratives by Two Female Francophone Authors” and explores and analyzes the similarities and differences of the impact of immigration on children by looking at two young female protagonists, An Tinh in *Ru* by Kim Thúy, and Doria in *Kiffe Kiffe Demain* by Faiza Guène. Through close readings, Madden compares and contrasts the way they write about their upbringings, identities, and struggles. An Tinh fled from Vietnam to Quebec with her family to escape the Vietnam War and the new communist government.



Doria, on the other hand, is a teenage girl, born in France to immigrant parents, navigating the outskirts of Paris with her Moroccan immigrant mother after her father leaves them to go back to Morocco. The comparison of An Tinh and Doria shows how literature contributes to the understanding of the challenges faced by immigrant and refugee families in Francophone countries and can provide nuance to the conversation about the struggles faced in other immigrant communities.

**Ana Newberry** is a student at UNC-Greensboro and has a major in Languages, Literatures, and Cultures with a concentration in French & Francophone Studies, a second major in Consumer, Apparel, and Retail Studies with a concentration in Global Apparel and Related Industries, and a minor in International and Global Studies. Her project entitled “Social Justice à la Coco Chanel” explores the role of social justice in business settings now at the forefront of the apparel industry’s social media content. The essential question addressed in her research is whether monetary investment into social justice advocacy programs results in higher profits for French apparel companies with Chanel as its model. Newberry’s project demonstrates that investment in people is not only good for society, but also good for business. Discussion of these findings may open up other conversations into the ethics of capitalism, the authenticity of social justice initiatives, and consumer expectations of Corporate Social Responsibility.





(Below) SPN 122 *Elementary Spanish* doing in-person learning



(Above) Professor Mayte de Lama and student Jo Fradkin, who presented her research, *Oh Mother, Who Art in Hell: Examining Internal and External Conflicts of Immigrant Women Through the Work of Carmen Jiménez*, in Spanish on SURF Day.



# Dr. Mina García and Social Justice Through Spanish Literature

*By: Elli Knowlton*

Spanish professor Dr. Mina García has been collaborating with other writers from across the country to edit and release their new co-edited volume, *Social Justice in the Spanish Golden Age Theatre*. She and three colleagues, equally passionate about writing, meet weekly over skype for writing sessions. They found that social justice was a common theme in their writing and decided to write a book together.

*Social Justice in the Spanish Golden Age Theatre* is a collection of original essays that focus on how Spanish drama portrays social justice and engages the audience in a dialogue about abuse, injustice, and inequality. The book is divided into three parts. The first part of the book focuses on analysis of plays from 17th-century Spain and Latin America. The second part focuses on how Golden Age Spanish theatre presents social justice problems that are also current in modern times.



Dr. García describes how prominent Spanish figure, Miguel de Cervantes, wrote a play about his struggles during captivity in Northern Africa and how his play highlights elements such as discrimination and human displacement. These elements relate to current social justice issues regarding human displacement and immigrants seeking asylum. These plays are still performed today making the same issues relevant again in a new light. The third and final part of the book shares the perspective of the directors and actors of these modern plays and their struggles to bring these themes to the stage. *Social Justice in the Spanish Golden Age Theatre* emphasizes that social justice is not new, and offers a glimpse into how social justice is portrayed in plays both in the past and the present.





# DR. KRISTIN LANGE AND HER WORK IN GERMAN STUDIES

*By: Cassidy Beal*

Dr. Kristin Lange, born in East Germany a few years before German unification, came to the US on a Fulbright exchange to teach German at St. Louis University. After going back to Germany to complete her master's, she finished her doctoral degree at the University of Arizona in Tucson and has been in North Carolina ever since.

Dr. Lange and Dr. Scott Windham have been working together to strengthen and grow the German program at Elon University by expanding the courses and appealing to majors such as business, environmental science, and communications. Their long-term goal is to develop a German major for Elon's academic programs and to amplify what already makes the program so unique.

"We make a great team," Dr. Windham says of his colleague. "We have similar goals for the direction of the program, and as a native German, she can fill in areas where I as a native English-speaker cannot."



Dr. Lange's background is integral for the cohesive partnership of the German program, Dr. Windham said. With a doctoral degree in second language teaching and foreign language pedagogy, she complements Dr. Windham's studies in comparative studies which allows for a more well-rounded program for Elon students. "She's level-headed, insightful, and creative," Dr. Windham adds. "Our approaches to teaching are well matched."

Dr. Lange is well-loved by both students and professors, and her life philosophy of kindness, curiosity, and challenging oneself is evident through her teaching style and emulated in her students.





# Stories from Abroad!





# Fullbright Scholar Update

By Elli Knowlton

Sarah Barron graduated from Elon in May, 2020, and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to be an English Teaching Assistant in Madrid, Spain. Since January, Sarah has been living in Madrid and working at a community center.

“I have a really unique placement at a non-profit community center that works with the gitano community in Madrid. The word *gitano* refers to an ethnic group with roots in India more than a thousand years ago. In modern times, gitano people unfortunately face very intense stereotyping and discrimination. My students are ages 3 to adult, and everyone has a different level of English, so it is a really exciting job to have!”



(Right) Sarah playing a card game with her students in English Class

As an English Teaching Assistant, Sarah organizes activities and games for her students and shares stories about her life growing up in the United States. In addition to pushing back the start date of her teaching experience from September 2020 to January 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic has also had an impact on her experience while living in Madrid,

“Social integration into my host city is much harder! Madrid has a pretty strict curfew right now and social outings are limited. But I have been received with plenty of *cariño* here in Madrid, and I am still finding ways to form a social circle”.

When she isn't teaching, Sarah enjoys safely traveling with other Fulbright scholars, meeting locals in the community for “tapas and drinks”, and exploring the many beautiful parks of Madrid. She will be in Madrid until mid June, and then she plans on returning to the United States to pursue law school and study immigration law.



(Above) Walking in Madrid at sunset



# Teaching in Florence

By Cassidy Beal

Dr. Brandon Essary traveled abroad with students to the Accademia Europea di Firenze during the Spring semester of 2021. Despite various and changing restrictions, they made the best of the situation and stayed positive.

Dr. Essary notes that some of the silver linings to their trip was seeing Florence without the bustling crowds and having the city all to themselves. Dr. Essary says whether in person or remote, Elon students have amazed him with their perseverance, positivity, and desire to learn and be engaged even in a pandemic setting.

When they had to go online for a few weeks due to health concerns, it was a seamless transition as they remembered the lessons learned from online teaching March of 2020 when the pandemic first hit.



(Above) A local newspaper highlighting Elon students and AEF

The US Consul General visited the Accademia Europea di Firenze and applauded the Elon Italian program for being one of the first groups to return to Florence in almost a year, and she was fascinated by Dr. Essary's Core Capstone Seminar which uses the Dante's Inferno video game to teach Dante's Inferno. In a turn of fate, this course is especially important this year as 2021 marks the seventh centenary of Dante's death.

Dr. Essary also shared his teachings and research plans with La Nazione, the most popular Florentine newspaper. Furthering this, he is writing an article about "intermedial" Dante within video- and boardgames as well as an article about The Divine Comedy in Italian pop culture.

Dr. Essary is currently collaborating on a volume for the Annali d'italianistica, of which he is co-editor-in-chief, on Dante, and he is organizing an international conference with a colleague from the University of Grenoble to be hosted at AEF in January 2022 on Dante and popular culture.



DOMENICA — 28 MARZO 2021 — LA NAZIONE

27..

## Tempo Libero

Firenze

## ACCADEMIA TEATRALE

### «Il Pellicano» e «Creditori» concludono oggi la rassegna Strindberg riletto da Bartolini

FIRENZE

Si conclude oggi con la trasmissione in streaming degli ultimi spettacoli tratti dai capolavori del drammaturgo August Strindberg *Il Pellicano* e *Creditori*, la rassegna teatrale online trasmessa in diretta sul canale YouTube dell'Accademia Teatrale di Firenze, spettacoli tratti dai grandi autori della drammaturgia italiana e internazionale. La rassegna vede protagonisti i giovani attori dell'Accademia Teatrale di Firenze diretti dal regista e attore Pietro Bartolini. Il Festival in streaming è un nuovo format che è stato realizzato al Teatro Tredici che si è inaugurato sabato 6 marzo in occasione della Festa della Toscana con il "Codice di Perelà" dal capolavoro di Palazzeschi. Gli eventi online a carattere sperimentale si sono avvalsi di un mix di immagini digitali originali elaborate da Pietro Bartolini e il suo staff e di opere tra disegno e pittura create dalla artista fiorentina Tiziana Acomanni, dove ogni singolo attore agisce calato in ambienti virtuali creati al computer. Sono stati messi in scena Provando Strindberg in tre parti, da alcuni estratti da *Il Padre*, *La commedia della seduzione Aurelie* e *La cena d'addio* di Arthur Schnitzler, e nella giornata nazionale del Teatro il 27 marzo una performance originale dalle opere di Dante: *Dante e Beatrice*. La caratteristica del Festival è l'utilizzo delle nuove tecnologie per il teatro, che necessitano di nuove competenze, come la grafica 3D, il coding, le tecniche di riprese e montaggio video e strumentazioni particolari per formati innovativi di rappresentazione anche a distanza. Info: [segreteria@accademia-teatrale.it](mailto:segreteria@accademia-teatrale.it)

© RIPRODUZIONE RISERVATA

## LA CURIOSITA'

### L'Inferno di Dante si studia col videogioco Esperimento di un prof: «I ragazzi lo amano»

di Giulio Aronica  
FIRENZE

«Transumanar significar per verba non si poria». Come spiega il Sommo Poeta nel I Canto del Paradiso, trovare un linguaggio efficace per raccontare l'inespresso, ciò che non è tangibile né immediato, è da sempre un rovello per gli esseri umani. Se Dante invoca l'assistenza di Apollo per descrivere il regno santo e meritare così l'alloro poetico, il giovane professore Brandon Essary, docente presso la Elon University in North Carolina, professore dell'Accademia Europea di Firenze per stranieri, si è rivolto al linguaggio della Playstation. «Dante's Inferno» è il titolo del videogioco che ha proposto ai suoi studenti per illustrare l'Inferno dantesco, incontrando l'entusiasmo dei ragazzi.

#### Professor Essary, da dove nasce questo progetto?

«L'idea nasce dalla realtà, dai cambiamenti che riguardano l'educazione e la formazione dei giovani. Oggi il ritmo della tecnologia e la sua pervasività consente sin da bambini di assimilare l'esperienza multimediale prima e meglio della letteratura. Perché allora non utilizzare proprio la tecnologia per avvicinare gli studenti ai grandi classici come la Divina Commedia?».

#### Qualcuno potrebbe obiettare che la lettura è un'esperienza diversa dalla visione su uno schermo...

«Il transumanar dantesco non è molto diverso dalla transmediazione attraverso l'avatar di un giocatore. Dante e la Playstation sono entrambi creatori di mondi che difficilmente potrebbero essere raccontati soltanto a parole, senza ricorrere alla forza dell'immaginazione».



Dante's Inferno: videogioco proposto agli studenti

#### Reazioni a questo metodo?

«La risposta dei miei studenti è stata molto positiva. La varietà dei mezzi espressivi e comunicativi e la partecipazione diretta attraverso videogiochi credibili, immersivi e coinvolgenti sono una porta da aprire verso una didattica più innovativa e contemporanea. E non bisogna trascurare approssimazioni e facilonerie: per esempio, il personaggio di Beatrice come damigella in pericolo da salvare non era molto credibile».

#### Crede sia possibile ripetere quest'esperienza anche con altri testi?

«Certamente. Per il prossimo anno sto già preparando un corso simile utilizzando la saga di videogiochi di Assassin's Creed per parlare del Rinascimento a Firenze».

© RIPRODUZIONE RISERVATA

## SCUOLA DI MUSICA FIESOLE

### Alessandro De Sanctis è stato nominato sovrintendente

Alessandro De Sanctis è stato nominato sovrintendente pro tempore della Scuola di Musica di Fiesole rimasto vacante a seguito delle dimissioni di Cinatti. A De Sanctis, commercialista, l'incarico è stato conferito per la durata di tre mesi, prorogabili. Nato nel 1956, vanta esperienze nella consulenza aziendale.

## AMICI DELLA MUSICA

### Antonio Meneses, solo musica per violoncello

Oggi alle 20.30, sulle frequenze di Rete Toscana Classica (FM 93.1 - 93.3 e in streaming su [www.retetoscanaclassica.it](http://www.retetoscanaclassica.it)) sarà possibile ascoltare il recital che il violoncellista Antonio Meneses tenne al Teatro della Pergola nel 2017. Il programma celebra alcuni dei più grandi autori che hanno scritto esplorando la voce del violoncello.





# NEW CLASSICAL STUDIES MAJOR

BY: ASHLEY HANLON & PROFESSOR KRISTINA MEINKING

What can the passion, dedication, and hard work of Elon students accomplish? For a stellar example, look no further than WLC's newest major: Classical Studies. Inspired by the ten students who had pursued an Independent Major in Classical Studies from 2016-2020, the CLA Advisory Board spent multiple years working with colleagues across campus to bring these students' vision to life.

The new major has two pathways: students can choose to focus on Classical Languages or Classical Civilizations. To capture both the interdisciplinary nature of this field and invite students to make connections between their coursework, majors will select from courses that constitute three different areas: Languages, Society & Culture, and Classical Connections. Each pathway requires 40s.h., making it easy to pair with a second major in any of Elon's Schools.

As part of their curriculum, all students will explore the mysterious world of Classical Mythology (CLA 1110) and engage in an individual research project that's carefully mentored by a CLA faculty member. Opportunities for study abroad also abound, with both J-term and full-semester offerings in Greece, Italy, and other European countries.

**Want to learn more? Email Prof. Meinking ([kmeinking@elon.edu](mailto:kmeinking@elon.edu)) and Prof. Wimperis ([twimperis@elon.edu](mailto:twimperis@elon.edu)) today!**



# GERMAN HORROR CINEMA

**BY: CASSIDY BEAL**

Do you like horror movies?  
How about *German* horror movies?

Dr. Lina Kuhn combined her love of the genre with German history to give Elon students the German Horror Cinema course - where film movements are analyzed alongside important events and trends in Germany over the past century.



"I think part of the genre that remains so compelling is horror's ability to critique and comment on social and cultural situations that we perhaps otherwise would like to ignore," says Dr. Kuhn. "Early German film was so influential for everything that came after, and I hope with this class to give my students the foundational knowledge in German film movements, and cultural and historical context that will allow them to recognize the global impact and let it inform how they view other films, horror or not."

"It's really cool to have a class that combines my cinema major with my German minor," Brendan Antrosiglio, '23, agrees.



"It's interesting to see the connections between German history in the horror genre. I really enjoy using this kind of medium to explore Germany with." Join Dr. Kuhn in grappling with questions about the worth, cultural appeal, and impact of the horror genre, and hopefully have some spooky fun along the way.



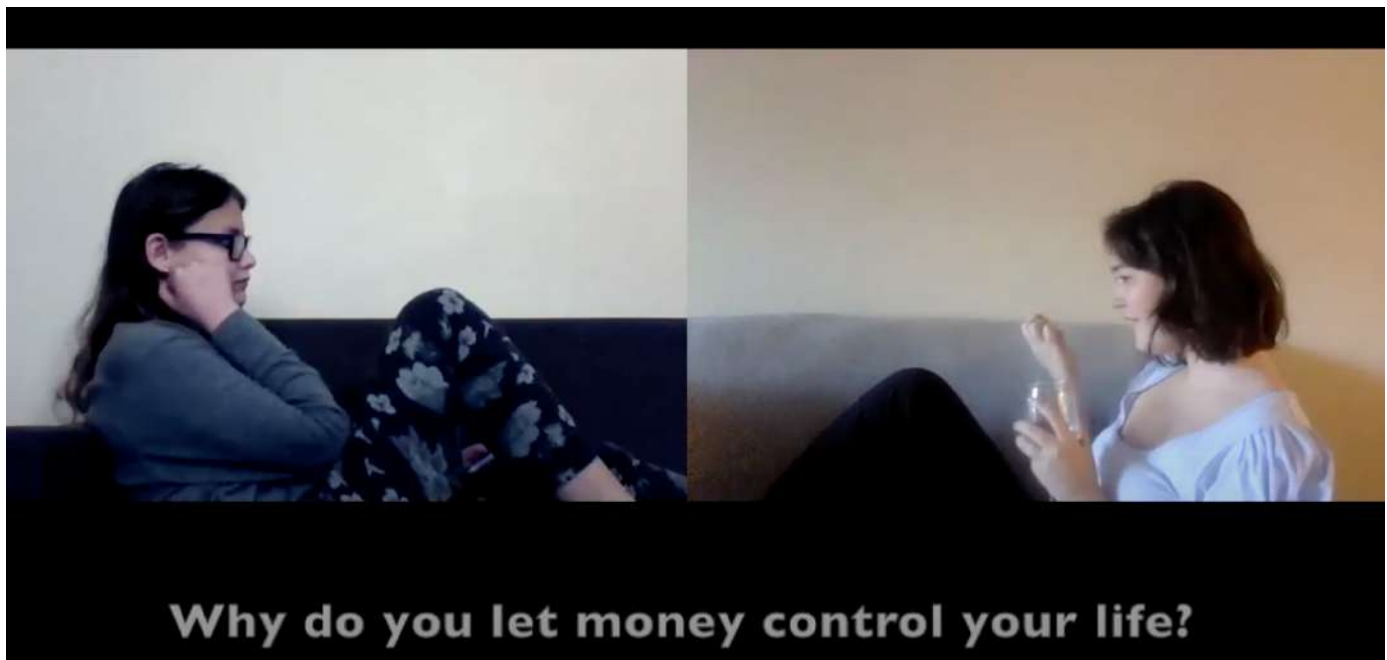
# French Theatre in Production.

BY: ELLI KNOWLTON

One of the courses offered this past Winter Term was FRE 349 *French Theatre in Production*, taught by French professor Olivia Choplin. The course engaged students in learning about French theatre and producing an original play that was performed at the end of the term. Inspired by Jean-Paul Sartre's play *Huis clos* [*No Exit*], students created a production called *L'enfer, c'est...Méditations Contemporaines Sur L'existentialisme* (Hell is...Contemporary Meditations on Existentialism) which focuses on responsibility and freedom of choice in the context of mental health, economic inequalities, social media, and life during a pandemic.



The scenes and script were based on student improvisations, and throughout the course students were able to collaborate in workshops to develop the play. Instead of a traditional in-person performance, *L'enfer, c'est...* was acted out on Zoom due to the pandemic.



Freshman Sarah Mirrow worked as Production Manager and edited together the Zoom clips to make an entire cohesive play production, and while she says there were technical challenges with acting on Zoom, it was a rewarding experience because she was able to work with a group on a project and improve her French skills in reading, writing, and speaking. Students and Professor Choplin hope that *L'enfer, c'est...* sparks the audience to think deeply about the gravity of one's choices. You can watch the play on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcyLOxPc\\_fY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcyLOxPc_fY)





By: Ashley Hanlon

Elon University offers the following combined courses: German 115, 121, and 122 in the winter; German 121 and 122 in fall and spring; German 221 and 222 in fall and spring.

Professor Windham, a German professor here at Elon described three major advantages to combining courses, "Combining levels gives students more options to begin or continue their language study. Because there are only three language majors available at Elon, the non-major languages such as German, have low enrollments compared to peer institutions nationwide [...] meaning that we can't offer every course every semester. [Combining classes means] that we can shelter courses with low enrollment, allowing them to grow. [Another advantage is that] in the span of one calendar year, these students will go from zero knowledge of German to intermediate proficiency. Teaching the combined courses has brought unexpected advantages as well. Students in German 121 are able to learn from the more experienced, but still beginner, students in German 122. And students in German 122 get the opportunity to review material they learned last semester."

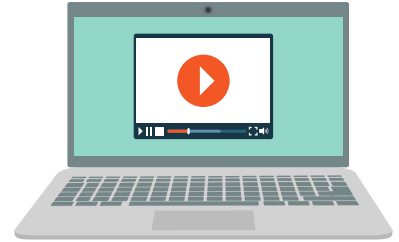
The response from students has been overwhelmingly positive, both in winter term and in the long semesters. One student in Professor Lange's class said: "While at first I was uneasy about both 121 and 122 being taught at the same time, I think it pushed me as a 121 student because the German language was very present with every module and every assignment, and I was able to see what I can look forward to learning in 122." (student in GER 121-122, Winter 2021).

Commenting on the course design, Professor Windham said "the courses use compatible cultural themes but different texts and different language emphases making class discussions possible. Course design gets a bit more complex when teaching three courses together—German 115, 121, and 122—but the principle is the same. On the whole, combining levels has given students greater flexibility and opportunity. Despite the heavy workload for the instructors, the move was worth it."



# LANGUAGE RESOURCES

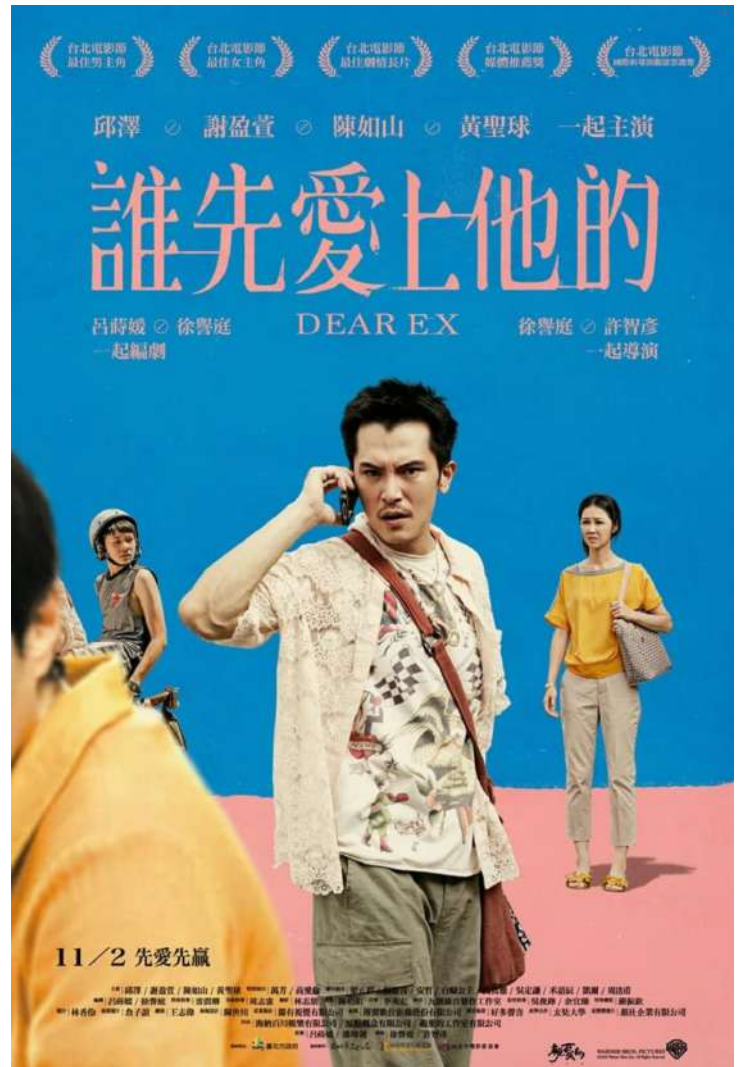
WHAT TYPES OF MEDIA ARE STUDENTS USING TO LEARN OTHER LANGUAGES & CULTURES?



## Films

- *Dear Ex* (2018), Mandarin Chinese, Directed by Chih-Yen Hsu & Hsu Mag Hsu, available on Netflix

When Sanlian's ex-husband passes away, she discovers that her husband was gay and cheated on her with a man named Jay. Outraged, Sanlian decides that she and her son will confront Jay. However, when her son unexpectedly moves in with Jay, she is forced to reassess her relationship with them both. It is a beautifully made Taiwanese movie about the freedom of true love against the social conventions.





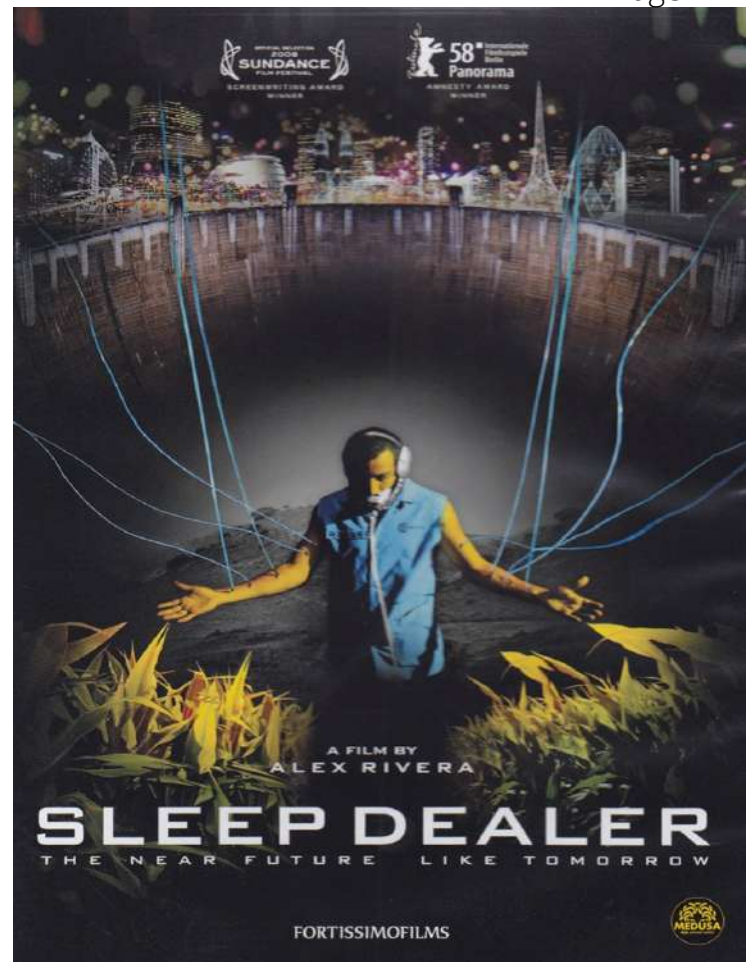
- *Sleep Dealer* (2008), Spanish/English,  
Directed by Alex Rivera

After being discovered by the military, a hacker escapes to Tijuana where he becomes involved with a journalist who plugs her body into the internet to sell her memories. Set in the U.S./Mexico boarder, the science-fiction film touches on topics of immigration and the danger of technology. This film was the topic of the LAS Research Series that took place in April.

## Short Films



- DOCUPERU is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower marginalized communities in Peru and other Latin American countries by providing them with access to the resources and technology needed to make short documentary films, many of which are available to watch on Vimeo. The films *Santuario* (2013), *Mujeres isla* (2015) and *Soq Tiempo* (2010) are examples of short films that are studied in SPN 376 *Cinematic Reflections on Latin America: Political Cinema*.



# TV Series

- *Asian Comedian Destroys America*

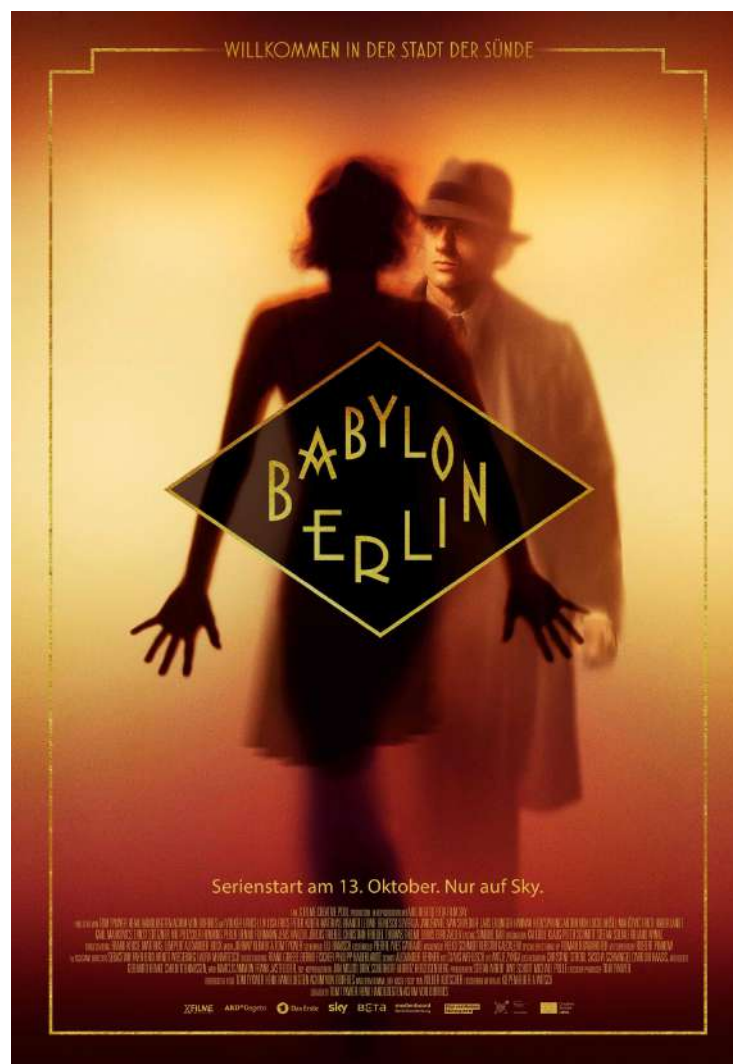
(2019), English, available on Netflix

Ronny Cheung, a Chinese-Malasian comedian and actor, is now a correspondent on The Daily Show on Comedy Central. In this hilarious show, he provides his observation of American culture and jokes about his experience as a comedian in America with his unique witty style. The show helps us understand the cultural differences in a very light-hearted manner and challenges Chinese stereotypes.



- *Babylon Berlin* (2017), available on Netflix

This show has a complex plot set in 1920s Berlin. It involves intense themes such as police, illegal military operations, Russian mafia, political intrigue, sex and drugs. English & German audio with English and German subtitles.





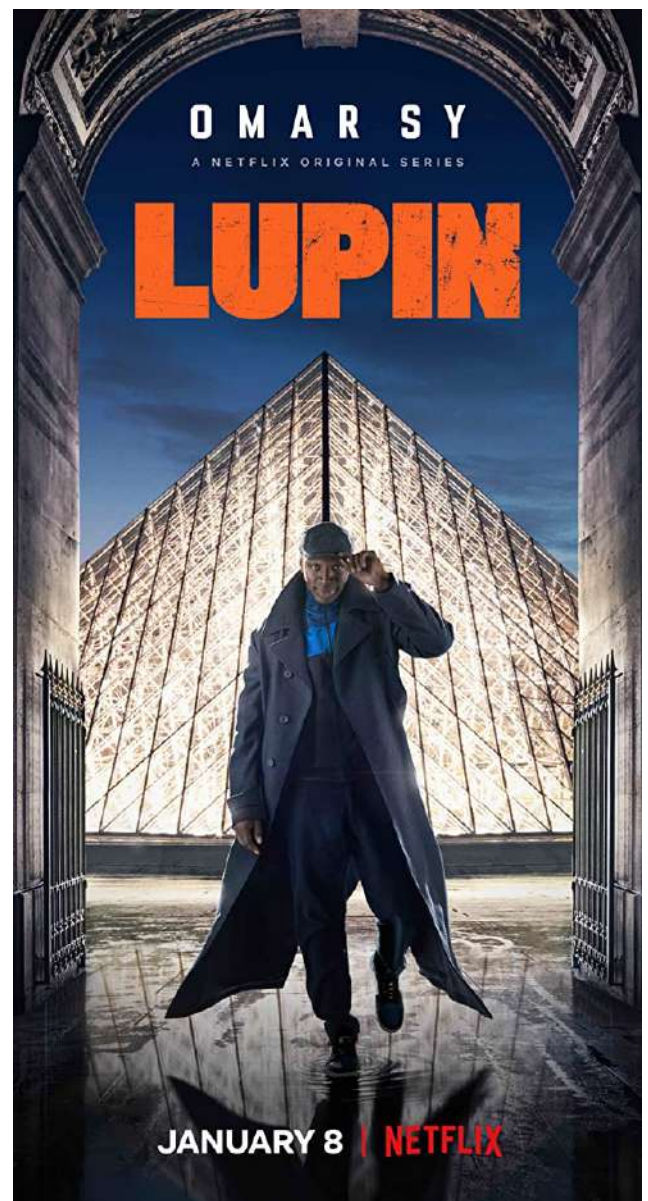
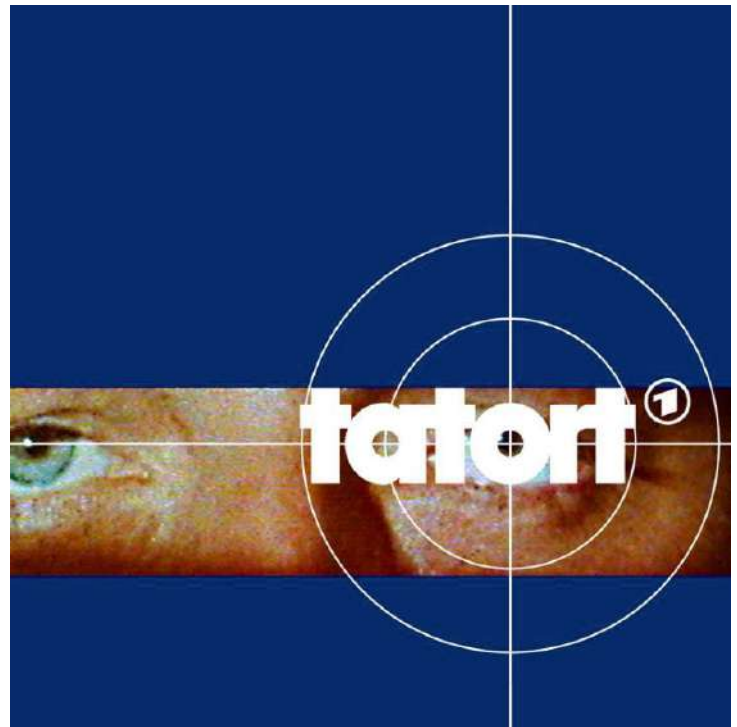
- *Tatort* (1970)

All-time most-popular German TV show. Each episode features a specific city & specific detectives.

German subtitles. Some detectives are easier to understand than others, dialects from different parts of Germany (Münster, Göttingen, Berlin).

- *Lupin* (2021)

*Lupin* is a French mystery thriller television series starring Omar Sy, who also starred in *Intouchables* (2011). This series (10 episodes) is available on Netflix with subtitles in English. The story follows Assane Diop, the son of an immigrant father from Senegal, who sets out to avenge his father for an injustice inflicted on him by a wealthy Parisian employer twenty-five years earlier. Inspired by a book about a gentleman thief, Arsene Lupin, Assane seeks revenge, using smarts, charm, creativity, and mastery of thievery and disguise to expose the employer's crime. This is an engaging way to hear French, see Omar Sy in a new role, and enjoy beautiful scenes of France -- beginning with the Louvre Museum in the first episode.



# GUEST SPEAKERS

---

## ANTONIO ORTUÑO

**By: Elli Knowlton**

This Spring, Mexican writer Antonio Ortuño visited an upper level spanish class via zoom to discuss *La fila india* and his motivations for writing the book. The book focuses on the topic of immigration. The journey for migrants traveling from Central America to the United States is dangerous and oftentimes deadly, as organized criminal groups take advantage of migrants through human trafficking. Ortuño started writing at a very young age and worked as a journalist, as he was deeply interested in society and human relationships with power. Ortuño found that journalism restricted his writing, and so he sought out fiction as a way to write about different perspectives on important social topics, such as migration. The four different narrative points of view in *La fila india* emphasize the intensity of the corruption that exists in México, including the corruption within criminal groups, politics, and the organizations that are meant to help migrants. Students in SPN 452: *Trends in 20th and 21st Century Narrative*, taught by Dr. Pablo Celis-Castillo, read



*La fila india* and engaged in discussions about the themes and characters in the book throughout the semester. Students in SPN 452 also learned about the narrative trends used by Latin American authors of the “New Millenium” such as self-fiction, adherence to popular genre conventions, a search for authenticity, a focus on globalization, and an interest for human rights and their relationship with historical truths. By reading books and short stories, students learned how these tendencies articulate important critical messages about the history and politics of Latin American countries.

Dr. Pablo Celis-Castillo, who was recently awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor at Elon University, encourages students to read the works of Latin American authors in order to be more aware of the social issues that are happening in other countries.





# FRED KUWORNU

By Cassidy Beal



Fred Kuwornu, an Italian-Ghanian filmmaker, joined Professor Samuele Pardini's class to discuss "Generation Balotelli," a concept named after the Ghanian-Italian athlete Mario Balotelli. He also shared the importance social media has had for black Italians and especially black Italian women in allowing them to feel comfortable and supported in their own skin through a mini-documentary about black Italian blogger Aida Aicha Bodian.

While these creators and influencers did not set out to start a business, Kuwornu says, they did want to share their stories for other Italians and black Italians to see. The founders of AfroItalia, a blog for black Italians, mention in a video that the Italian media tends to only discuss blacks in the lens of an immigrant or refugee to Italy rather than talk about native black Italians: “The reality has already changed, but the media and the institutions don’t feel like telling this new Italian reality.”

Social media has been integral for the rise of black Italians and second-generation immigrant voices within Italy. In a similar way to how a light has been shed on the injustices against black Americans, so, too, has there been more attention in the recent years for black Italians as they fight to be seen as Italians first.





# LUNAR NEW YEAR *Celebration*

Elon's new Chinese club, founded in 2020, has played an important role in connecting students and enhancing their interest in Chinese during the Covid-19 pandemic. Facing the challenge of not being able to host in-person events, the exec board made creative use of the Zoom platform, organizing bi-weekly events centering on themes such as Chinese movies, travel and study abroad in China and trivia night of Chinese characters and culture. In the spring of 2021, the exec board continued adapting the themes and formats by collaborating with other student organizations and clubs. In March, for example, they joined a forum initiated by the Asian Pacific Student Association (APSA), where students shared their stories about studying and living in the U.S. and voiced their support for the Asian community facing increasingly more hate crimes. Collaborations included co-hosting the Lunar New Year Celebration with APSA and Empress in February and partnering with the Global Neighborhood Community (GNC) and Department of World Languages & Cultures (WLC) in screening the award-winning movie, "The Farewell", followed by a Q&A session led by Dr. Binnan Gao.



(Above) Prof. Binnan Gao teaching students to write in Chinese

For Julie Edward, the secretary of the club, the celebration of Lunar New year should be offered annually, since it encouraged all members to be active participants in Elon's community in providing an accurate and safe place for non-Asian representing individuals to learn more about Asian cultures and foster a healthier sense of respect and understanding for Asian students.



Dr. Binnan Gao, the advisor of the club, shared the following:  
"I have constantly been amazed at the leadership of the students on the exec board. They are resourceful, reflective and resilient, and learn fast. They have successfully created a small and cozy community that bonded students of Chinese and students interested in Chinese culture."





# POLYGLOT Lunches

*By: Elli Knowlton*



Each week, the World Languages and Cultures faculty host a Polyglot Lunch at Lakeside Dining Hall where students and professors can come together to practice other languages. Spanish Professor Ricardo Mendoza and French Professor Olivia Choplin attend the lunches each week and engage in conversation with students and other members of the Elon community. Professors, staff members and friends of the Burlington and Elon area are also welcome to the Polyglot Lunches. The languages that are commonly spoken are French and Spanish, but all languages are welcome. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Polyglot Lunches were usually held inside Lakeside dining hall, however, faculty have shown resilience and found a new way to safely host the lunches outside. Anyone can attend the lunches, and the environment is friendly and encouraging for those who wish to learn a new language. The Polyglot Lunches happen on Tuesdays from 11:45-12:45, and are a great opportunity for students to practice the languages they are learning and to build relationships with their professors.



# Indigenous Resistance Webinar

BY: ELLI KNOWLTON

This Spring semester, Spanish department faculty members Juan Leal Ugalde, Pablo Celis-Castillo, and Federico Pous organized a series of initiative events for *Indigenous Resistance in Latin America*. The events included three webinars that took place in April, and ended with a photography exhibit held in Carlton Commons.

The first webinar “Siwar Mayu, A river of hummingbirds” was led by writer and poet Juan Sánchez, who works for the online multilingual publication *The Siwar Mayu Project*. The words “Siwar” and “Mayu” in the native Quechua language translate into “hummingbird and river”, symbolizing how *The Siwar Mayu Project* works to share the messages of the ancestors and cross the borders of language. During the webinar, Sánchez shares pieces of poetry and art from native writers and artists, and he also describes how the project creates a space for indigenous creators to collaborate through dialogue, art, poetry, short stories, oral histories, and more. Instead of immediately translating the native works into languages such as English, Spanish, Portuguese and French, *Siwar Mayu* includes the works in their native language, and in some cases, will translate them from their original indigenous language in hopes to keep original poetics and epistemologies alive. Visit <http://siwarmayu.com> to learn more about the project.





The second webinar "Human Rights after the Colombian Peace Accords" was led by Anadeida Secue Rivera and Nelson Lemus Cruz, members of the People's Congress (Congreso de los Pueblos), and Emily Rhyne, director of Witness for Peace Southeast. Formed in 2010, the People's Congress works to create an intersectional, unified front against environmental destruction, war, and violence that harms marginalized communities in Colombia. Since the 2016 Colombian Peace Accords intended to end the armed conflict that has been occurring in the country, the People's Congress has played a crucial role in Colombian politics by supporting indigenous communities to defend their rights for life, land, and self-determination while violence in the country still increases. Colombia is experiencing a critical situation, where more than 300 human rights and environmental activists were assassinated in 2019, and important groups such as the People's Congress are necessary for finding solutions to the violence that negatively impacts indigenous and marginalized communities.



The third and final webinar "¡Turpü gelayay konkülenaliyiñ iñchiñ! / Never again without us!" was led by Antonio Catrileo and Manuel Carrión, who are two spiritual and queer members of the Mapuche community. The Mapuche are an indigenous community that live in the Southern and Central parts of Chile and Argentina, and oftentimes they face misrecognition, violence from the Chilean government, and territorial displacement from corporations seeking to extract natural resources. Catrileo and Carrión use poetry and art as a way to raise awareness and elevate the voices of the Mapuche, and also to share the experiences of queer members of the community.

They use “Affectionate conversation”, or *Poyewün nütramkan*, and the art of weaving to build relationships and have open and honest conversations with others who can emphasize with the queer Mapuche experience. The act of weaving is both artistic and symbolic, as it represents weaving together knowledge and experience and sharing this with those involved in *Poyewün nütramkan*. The practice of “weaving knowledge sharing”, or *trafkin kimün witrál*, helps to breed normativity of queerness and spirituality in the Mapuche community. In “Never again without us!”, Catrileo and Carrión bring attention to the Mapuche artists whose work sheds light on the complex relationship between indigenous visibility and colonial violence. “We don't forget” (*Ngoymalayinñ*, No olvidamos) is a part of the project that cultivates memories of indigenous treatment and colonial state violence through audiovisual archives.



The photo exhibit in Carlton Commons is titled “Defending Truth and Memory: The Path Towards Justice in Guatemala” and consists of 12 photographs, many of which were taken by the Mayan-Kaqchikel photographer Roderico Y. Diaz. The exhibit continues the conversation of indigenous resistance as it focuses on the question of historical truth and the pursuit of justice and reparations for the indigenous population that suffered the genocide during the Guatemalan Civil War. The photographs allow viewers to learn more about the Mayan people's recent struggles for justice, and also encourage viewers to reflect on how photography plays a crucial role in remembering the past.



Images from the photo exhibit in Carlton Commons:



# Sigma Delta Pi Ceremony





# SENIOR AWARDS

## CHINESE STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD



Lily Sandifer-Stech double-majors in International and Global Studies with a concentration in Asia and Computer Science with a minor in Mathematics. She is an Honors Fellow and completed her honors thesis on investigating the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's commitment to best social and environmental safeguard practices in their development projects in India.

She was inducted into Elon's Eta chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. She has served on the executive team of APSA first as treasurer and then as vice-president for three years. Lily stands out for her exemplary work in the advanced Chinese courses and her service for Elon academy as a Mandarin Chinese interpreter.

# ITALIAN STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD



Andrew Ciampa double majors in History and Political Science with a minor in Italian Studies. At a higher level, he was one of the first students to take Prof. Essary's Italian Literature through Video Games, and he took History of Ancient Rome in connection with his History major and Italian minor.

He also was the Executive Treasurer for SGA Spring of 2020 through Spring of 2021 and is a member of Beta Theta Pi on campus.



# HEBREW STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD



Alexis Davis was a high-achieving student in Dr. Avraham-Katz's classes and demonstrated excellent skill and dedication to her Hebrew studies. Her senior year saw her act as tutor and mentor to a first-year student at Elon, and Dr. Avraham-Katz is proud to bestow her the Hebrew Excellence Award.

# CLASSICAL STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD



As a Classical Studies minor, Brianna Edwards has studied Latin and a range of topics in ancient history and culture. Her experience includes an upper-level seminar on Race and Ethnicity in the Ancient Mediterranean World, for which she researched symbolism from antiquity in African-American sororities as her final project. She is a boundlessly curious, enthusiastic, and dedicated learner.



# CLASSICAL STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD



Throughout her time as a Classical Studies minor, Phoebe Mock has wonderfully exemplified the interdisciplinary nature of the field. This is most evident in her research: her examination of brothel frescoes in Pompeii — and their prospective voyeurs — expertly weaves together work in languages, theory, art history, and religious studies.



# GERMAN STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD



Julia Towner double-majored in German Studies and Music Performance with a concentration in voice. She went abroad to Heidelberg from the Fall of 2019 through Winter of 2020 where she studied German literature, German history, and German language. During this time, she also pursued voice lessons with a member of the Heidelberg opera choir and sang in a choir composed of German and international students from the University of Heidelberg. After returning to campus, Julia continued to pursue her German studies with Dr. Lange's 300-level course about East Germany.



# GERMAN STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD



Cassidy Beal combined her Film major and her German Studies minor for her independent research Fall 2020 to replace her internship. She has worked closely to support the German department as an assistant to the WLC and continued taking high-level German courses.

"Talent is given to us at birth; hard work and dedication are a choice. Very few people have her kind of work ethic. She has a great sense of humor, loves dogs, is generous, and treats everyone with kindness and respect." -Dr. Scott Windham

# SPANISH STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD



Emma Burns has studied abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a member of SDP and is currently a LatinX Engagement intern at the CityGate Dream Center in Burlington. There she uses Spanish to cultivate connections and community with Latinx DreamCenter members, plan and teach adult ESL classes, and mentor students who attend the DreamCenter's after school program. She has organized a community garden and recycling program with the DreamCenter students and has helped plan vaccine distributions for marginalized communities impacted by COVID-19, organized volunteers, and served as an interpreter for Latinx community members receiving their vaccines consent. Emma was nominated by her professors for her love of the Spanish language and cultures, for her passion for the Spanish-speaking community and for her dedication to being a global citizen.



# SPANISH STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD



Angelica Collaz is a double major in Spanish and Human Service Studies who studied abroad in Seville, Spain, and is very invested in her work with and for the Latino community here in the U.S. She has worked indirectly by collaborating with Univision to educate the Latino community on domestic abuse, tutoring students at the Positive Attitude Youth Center in Burlington, and currently uses her Spanish to serve Hispanic and Latino patients as a volunteer at the Open Door Clinic of Alamance. Angélica's passion for Spanish and for helping others-- classmates, children, families, the community-- is remarkable and noteworthy, and she says that working with the Latino community is a dream come true for her. She was nominated for her love of the Spanish language and the Puerto Rican culture and for the role she plays as an ambassador of languages and cultures.

# FRENCH STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD



Ally is a double French and Communication Design major who is passionate about social justice movements. She declared a French major not long after beginning her studies at Elon and spent a semester studying abroad in Montpellier, France. While in Montpellier, Ally combined her love of the city with her communication design talents and created a brochure featuring the southern French city. She writes: “To cater to the younger audience, I chose to use a collage-style aesthetic with lots of layering and photos that I took to inspire others like me to want to visit this amazing city.” During her final semester, she completed in-depth research in the senior seminar capstone research course where she expanded on a previous project and newly explored the cultural implications of the #MeToo and #BalanceTonPorc movements to support survivors of sexual violence. Ally has shown great depth in her critical thinking and intercultural competence and has been dedicated to improving her language skills since she arrived at Elon. She is also a member of the National French Honor Society Pi Delta Phi. But ultimately, it is Ally’s work ethic and open-mindedness coupled with her compassion, creativity, and humanity that have made her such an asset to WLC. Ally hopes to be working in the Boston area after graduation.

Congrats, Ally!

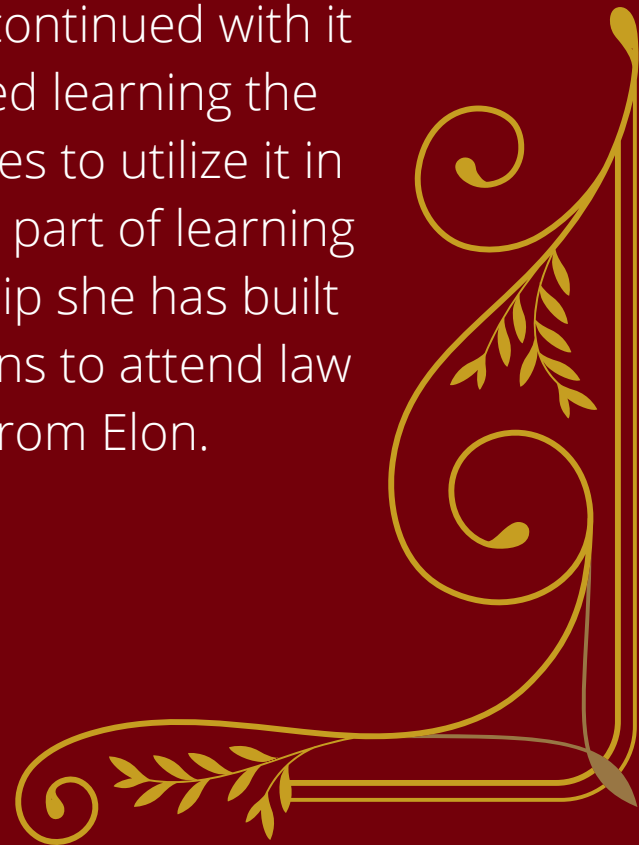


# ARABIC STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD



## Tess Hogan

Tess is a graduating senior studying International & Global Studies and Policy Studies. She began to study Arabic in the spring of her freshman year and has continued with it for all four years. She has loved learning the culture and language, and hopes to utilize it in her future careers. Her favorite part of learning Arabic has been the relationship she has built with Ustatha Shereen. Tess plans to attend law school after graduating from Elon.





# ***Student Authors***



Elli Knowlton



Cassidy Beal, Class 2021



Ashley Hanlon, Class 2021