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The Classical Studies Program received a grant from the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (CATL) for expanding how the Classical Mythology course engages with diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Diversity and Inclusion Grant will help promote a deeper understanding of the themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion in ancient times to today. Faculty members Dr. Kristina Meinking and Dr. Tedd Wimperis applied for the grant to modify the CLA 1100: Classical Mythology course, which will integrate DEI topics into the coursework.

The goal of the grant project is to enhance how the mythology course engages with multiculturalism in the ancient world, which is especially important because ancient Greek and Roman history has been used at times to promote supremacist ideas. This grant will help look at ethnic diversity in the ancient world and how ethnic diversity is reflected in the myths ancient people told and exchanged with one another. CLA 1100 will help disrupt Eurocentrism and colonialist ideologies, and bring a new perspective to ancient history. The class will be offered in Fall 2022 as the pilot for the new DEI initiative, and the Spring 2023 course will act as stage two of the initiative. Congratulations to Dr. Meinking and Dr. Wimperis for the Diversity and Inclusion Grant!
For J-Term this year, French Professor Sylvie Little gave her French II class a genuine cultural experience by celebrating “La Fête des Rois,” or “The Feast of the Kings." This traditional holiday has roots in Orthodox Christianity and is celebrated on January 6th, otherwise known as “Old Christmas." Because France is now a secular country, La Fête des Rois is openly celebrated by everyone, regardless of religious practices. During this holiday, it is traditional to enjoy a specific kind of sweet cake called a galette des rois.
Inside the cake is a small ceramic figurine, or “une fève.” This small charm is supposed to bring luck, and a part of the holiday celebration involves cutting the cake into pieces and seeing who gets the piece with the figurine.

French student Abigail Lynch found a small ceramic lamb in their piece of galette des rois, and they reflect happily on the experience:

“The whole class had a very good time eating the cake and celebrating together before we began studying. It was a nice break from normal class, especially since it still furthered our education by teaching us about a French tradition! I loved explaining this celebration to my mom later, as she works as the head of our city's Interfaith board and works with people of many different cultures and faiths, so she was also fascinated to learn how the French celebrate this Christian holiday!”
This semester, Professor Boaz Avraham-Katz led a popular class titled “Falafel Nation,” which has recently become a permanent course. Boaz, as his students call him, began working at Elon in 2015. He has since taken on the role of Jewish Educator at the Elon Hillel, and he teaches stimulating and interdisciplinary courses, one of which has recently been instated as a permanent course.

HEB 3010: Falafel Nation analyzes the social, cultural, and economic practices in post-1905 Israel in order to study the production and consumption of food. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach in studying the historical and modern trends in every aspect between Israelis and their food in the “search for a definition of modern Jewish nationalism.”

The relationship between food and Israel extends far beyond the superficial taste of food, but examines how food can be associated with various societal issues in terms of the role of women, ethnic groups, and minorities in the food landscape of the country. Additionally, this course examines how food is used to form a narrative in Israel.
This course is particularly important to highlight due to its newly-implemented ‘permanent’ status. This denotes a course which is not only popular, but also one which dives into relevant and important issues facing students and the world. This creative and intellectually challenging course takes on what it means to be a ‘global citizen,' and Boaz reports that this course is able to relate historical trends to current trends in globalization and how this further relates to food. Mendoza says, "Boaz is a great professor that strives to see us succeed and brings such great perspective on food culture and how that shapes the development of nations and identities!" Thank you, Boaz, for representing the department of World Languages and Cultures and its emphasis on interesting interdisciplinary learning experiences, including the fostering of Hebrew and Jewish culture at Elon through fighting for the permanent status of Falafel Nation.
GBL 2600: TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

BY ANNA VAN JURA

This past J-term, Dr. Lange and the German Program took intercultural learning to a new level. Dr. Lange—alongside Dr. Ifeoma Udeh, Associate Professor of Accounting in the Love School of Business—led a study abroad course called GBL 2600: Taking Care of Business which immersed students in the German culture and took time to learn about and meet with German businesses. The trip stayed in 5 cities: Frankfurt am Main, Reutlingen, Munich, Leipzig, and Berlin. They also took daytrips to Heidelberg, Hanau, Tübingen, Stuttgart, Aying, and Halle. Senior Sport Management major Jacob Neuman reported about the trip and Dr. Lange, "We had so much freedom to explore and find out how we individually understood and interacted in the country. She always made sure to keep us on track for required and impactful tours, walks, lectures and meetings."

Additionally, the trip allowed students to understand and witness the differences between Germany and the US, such as differences in language and culture. This was greatly appreciated by the students, as senior Eli Ehrbar commented that he "learned how different the culture was both from a cultural and business perspective." The goal of the course is to help students understand the economic, political, cultural, and social aspects of Germany and how these can impact businesses in one of the leading global markets, Germany.
"They are proof that literature can live outside of the classroom and be shared in the community. Also, they are a testament to literature and reading being part of learning Spanish from the very beginning and not something that is limited to advanced students."

~ Dr. Mina Garcia

This year, faculty member Dr. Mina Garcia hosted the annual Marathon Reading Event in Carlton Commons on April 14th. The event lasted about 3 ½ hours and was live-streamed for the online audience to watch as well. The marathon featured works from women writers in both English and Spanish. This is the fifth annual event where Elon faculty and Spanish students can sign up for time slots to read their chosen work. Dr. Garcia focused on two main writers, Gloria Fuertes and Marina Mayoral, who are both from Spain. Other Universities also host Marathon Readings, including Methodist University, UNC Chapel Hill, Duke University, and Meredith College. Thank you so much to Dr. Mina Garcia for planning and putting together this event!
Spanish professor Dr. Juan Leal-Ugalde wrote an article, which was later featured on Today at Elon, highlighting the event *Migratory Crisis and Latin American Conflicts; A Conversation on Documentary Photography, Storytelling, and Communities*. The event included discussions held by Tomás Ayuso, photographer for National Geographic, and Amelia Frank-Vitale, postdoctoral research associate and lecturer in Latin American Studies at Princeton University. They discussed the importance of documenting the conflicts occurring in Latin America and how it can increase awareness and promote well-being to the affected communities.

The article can be found on *Today at Elon*: https://www.elon.edu/u/news/2022/04/13/elon-hosts-a-virtual-conversation-to-discuss-migratory-crisis-latin-american-conflicts/
Melynn Oliver

Melynn Oliver is a 24-year-old graduate student at George Washington University. She just completed her first year of a 2-year program in the Asian Studies Program of the Elliott School of International Affairs, in which she has a China regional concentration and a Security Policy Professional focus. From 2016 until 2020, Melynn studied Political Science and International Studies with a minor in Asian Studies at Elon University. During her time at Elon, Melynn took consecutive Chinese courses from beginner up to the 300 level from J-term 2017 through her junior year in 2018, during which she studied abroad in Beijing in Fall 2018. Melynn stated that her Chinese professor whilst at Elon, Dr. Binnan Gao, has been not only a great teacher of a very difficult language but also a “constant advocate” in her language studies and beyond. Melynn stated, “Professor Gao is a wonderful professor and someone I personally look up to for her impact not only in my language studies, but also my time at Elon and what I have done since I graduated.”

Melynn has achieved great success in her studies both in and outside the classroom since graduating from Elon. She has stated that she has made a “life-long personal and academic commitment” to “learning Mandarin to the highest level” that she can. She currently conducts Taiwan-related event planning and research as a project assistant for the Taiwan Studies Initiative in the Elliott School of International Affairs. She also publishes a Taiwan Brief weekly for a small readership.
Melynn’s most recent academic feat is her acceptance into the **Summer 2022 International Chinese Language Program (ICLP)**, hosted by National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan. The ICLP is an intensive Mandarin Chinese language program which emphasizes spoken Chinese. This summer, Melynn will receive 20 hours of in-class instruction per week with additional hours dedicated to coursework and test preparation. As one of the most highly-regarded programs in the field, ICLP alumni have gone on to utilize their Mandarin skills as diplomats, business leaders, academics, and more.

Melynn has also received two awards to help fund her travel and program costs. Melynn has received the **Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship** which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. She has also received the **Huayu Enrichment Scholarship**—a scholarship supported by Taiwan’s Ministry of Education—which is currently one of the only ways to secure a Visa for travel to Taiwan due to COVID-19 restrictions still in place. Melynn says that it is “thanks to the generous funding and support of these two awards and the moral and logistical support of my office (at the GW Elliott School),” that she has “been able to pursue this incredible opportunity.”

China and Chinese have always been a personal, professional, and academic passion of Melynn’s, stating that she has “derived those curiosities from my personal identity as a Chinese American.” This passion along with her interest in international relations and political science—which she credits to growing up around Washington, D.C.—have been the major drivers behind all of the work she has put in to get into the Summer 2022 ICLP and to receive the FLAS Fellowship and the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship. According to Melynn, “having Chinese language proficiency is also my responsibility as a future contributor to the professional pursuit of promoting peace and understanding in a global context.” She is looking forward to spending the summer working toward her personal and professional goals through improving her Mandarin skills and embracing a new and unique cultural experience.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JUSTIN SEIFTS

By: Elli Knowlton

Justin Seifts is an Elon Alumnus (2009) and teaches Spanish at East Chapel Hill High School. This year he has received the Reckford Teaching Prize, which includes recognition for being an outstanding teacher and a $2,000 grant to be used for travel, study, and other enrichment opportunities. Seifts majored in Spanish Education at Elon and has greatly contributed to the profession of language teaching by being a mentor for a prior Spanish licensure candidate. In addition, Seifts is a part of the Advisory Board for the Spanish Education Committee at Elon University. His passion for teaching, enthusiasm for the Spanish language, and his ability to foster connection and engagement with his students reflects the qualities of an excellent teacher.

Photos by Samuel Long, The Daily Tar Heel
STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT
FRE 4970: Senior Seminar
By: Molly Armstrong

The Senior Seminar for French majors, taught in spring 2022 by Dr. Sophie Adamson, is a semester-long course in which students write a research paper in French and give an oral presentation at Elon’s Student Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF). This year, seniors Arianna Wolgin, Ari Yaron, and Molly Armstrong (myself) engaged in textual analysis on French HIV narratives, Jewish-Muslim relations in France, and autobiographical stories around immigration and integration.

Arianna, who majors in French and Public Health, wrote a thesis paper on French HIV narratives titled: “Révélation socioculturelles dans deux récits VIH en France: On n’est pas sérieux quand on a 17 ans (1996) de Barbara Samson et J’ai 20 ans et le VIH : Ma vie presque comme les autres (2020) de Lucie Hovhanessian.” Through French literary analysis, Arianna worked to understand the shared feeling of shame, perceived stigma, and resilience of women living with HIV. She compared the experience of young women living with HIV in France through analyzing the specific language and authors' accounts in these chosen autobiographies.

When asked how she felt about this senior seminar class, Arianna shared, “This tight-knit group of students and Madame Adamson fostered creative thinking and a supportive space to learn. I am so grateful for this senior seminar class and our community!”

Ari Yaron, who majors in French and Policy Studies, has been studying the movie La Haine (1995), directed by Mathieu Kassovitz, and the novel Avant la Haine (2015) by Thierry Cohen, to examine literary and cinematic representations of Jewish and Muslim relations in France. His project is entitled, “Représentations Cinématographiques et Littéraires des Relations Judéo-Musulmanes.” He explores contemporary and historical relations between Jews and Muslims in France, and he reflects on the role of France’s separation of church and state (known as laïcité). When asked about his research and this class, Ari stated, “This project not only has fascinating personal connections to my Israeli lineage, but will continue to be an area of study as I strive to further understand French culture and society. This senior seminar course has been the most rewarding experience throughout my four years at Elon. I’m grateful today, and will continue to be as I move forward!”
Through my project, “Racines et Déracinements : Les Notions de Soi dans les Romans Autobiographiques Garçon manqué (2000) de Nina Bouraoui et Ru (2009) de Kim Thuy,” I have been researching how the writing styles in two French autobiographical books reflect the authors’ distinct trajectories. In Ru, Thuy tells the story of Nguyen an Tinh, who finds refuge in Canada after fleeing Vietnam, and Garçon manqué highlights the coming of age story of the “tomboy” narrator, Nina, who is the “fragmented” daughter of an Algerian father and French mother. I have learned so much about French literature and myself through this research, and I am very proud of myself and my classmates for conducting an entire textual analysis in French.
This Spring, two Elon students have had the opportunity to study abroad in Amman, Jordan. For the whole semester, Madelyn “Maddy” Starr and Allison “Allie” Roberts have been in Jordan to participate in the Middle East Studies Program offered by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). The program offers an immersive experience into Middle Eastern history, culture, politics, and language study. As a cosmopolitan city with a rich history, numerous museums, art galleries, theaters, and a diverse, vibrant population, Amman serves as the perfect place for the study of the Middle East and Arabic.

Maddy Starr (‘23) is a junior majoring in International and Global Studies and Religious Studies with a regional focus in the Middle East. She is an Elon College Fellow and a Multifaith Scholar and is conducting a research project titled “Material Memories: Narratives of the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict” under the guidance of Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Dr. Amy Alocco.
Allie Roberts (‘23) is also a junior, and she is majoring in International and Global Studies and Political Science with a regional focus in the Middle East and a minor in Geography. Allie is passionate about civic engagement and international cooperation, and she is particularly interested in studying migration and displacement. When on campus, Allie serves as the secretary and treasurer of Elon’s Arabic Language Organization, a Voting Ambassador for Elon Votes, and a Telephone Interviewer for the Elon University Poll. 

Through the program, Maddy and Allie have had numerous opportunities to travel to various destinations in Jordan, learn to make traditional Jordanian dishes, expand upon their language and cultural knowledge, and make lasting connections and memories. They both hope to continue their pursuit of Middle East Studies following their return the the United States!
SIGMA DELTA PI
INDUCTION CEREMONY

BY: CASSIDY BALL

SPANÍAS DIDAGÉI PROÁGOMEN - LET'S CONTINUE UNDER THE INSPIRATION OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE

The ceremony was led by Spanish Lecturer Ricardo Mendoza and Elon students Caden Joseph, Deena Elferai, Ethan Krone, and Chadwick Spears. The induction ceremony included words of encouragement from Elon Alumna Taylor Garner, who now lives and works in Colombia and Ecuador, on how she uses Spanish in her life to make a difference. There was live music from Oscar Oviedo and Jorge Mendoza, who are both from Colombia, and Luza Mendoza read a poem by a Colombian poet. Finally, Professors Elena Schoonmaker-Gates, Mayte de Lama, April Post, and Ricardo Mendoza gave out graduation cords to the seniors and shared final words of advice.

To join, students must have completed three years of study of college-level Spanish (18 semester credit hours) or the equivalent thereof, including at least three semester hours of a course in Hispanic literature or Hispanic culture and civilization at the junior (third-year) level.

Congratulations to the newest inductees of Sigma Delta Pi!
Pi Delta Phi is the National French Honor Society for college students in the United States. The annual Pi Delta Phi induction ceremony of Elon’s Lambda Omicron chapter was held on Monday, May 2nd, in Johnston Hall. Senior French majors and co-presidents of Pi Delta Phi, Molly Armstrong (myself) and Arianna Wolgin, led the event with a special guest speaker, Ari Yaron, who is also a senior French major at Elon University.

Ari went abroad to Paris in the Fall of 2021 and spoke in French on the importance and value of learning French. He explained how it has brought him closer to other French majors as well as the French professors, along with getting the opportunity to go to France and interact with and learn from the French. Ari has been accepted to the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) and is waiting to hear back from a graduate school in Paris, as he hopes to further his policy studies in France. After Ari’s speech, Arianna and I presided over the ceremony as we inducted nine new members into the Honor Society. It was a very lovely induction ceremony, and we congratulate all of the society’s new members.
DELTA PHI ALPHA
INDUCTION CEREMONY
NATIONAL GERMAN HONOR SOCIETY
The National German Honor Society promotes the study of German language and culture. Elon's chapter of Delta Pi Alpha was founded in 2018. This year's induction ceremony was held in Carlton Commons and was led by German professors Dr. Kristin Lange and Dr. Scott Windham. The 11 inductees were Caroline Castelloe Taylor, Emery Eisner, Eva May Pierce, Rebekah Jane Maupin, Jeremy Weber, Sebastian Haas, Oskar Reck, Jack Adams, Erica Risch, Foster Davis, and Maximilian Wagner. Congratulations to the new members!
C H I N E S E  C L U B

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Elon’s Chinese Club had a very successful semester. After two years as a provisional club, the Chinese Club officially achieved full recognition as a student organization from Elon’s Student Government Association. One of the biggest campus events of the Spring Semester—co-hosted by the Chinese Club, the Asian Pacific Student Association, and Asian sorority interest group, Empress—was the Lunar New Year Celebration.

Lunar New Year—which marks the first moon in the lunar calendar—is an important holiday celebrated across Asia, including in China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Mongolia. It is a time to reunite with family and to welcome in good fortune and prosperity for the upcoming year. According to the Chinese zodiac calendar, the year 2022 is the year of the tiger, which represents bravery, wisdom, and strength.

Members of Chinese Club, APSA, and Empress

Elementary Chinese II Students Sing “Congratulations” (恭喜恭喜)

Chinese students and enthusiasts try their hand at Chinese calligraphy
With various performances, activities, and lots of delicious food, this year’s Lunar New Year Celebration on campus was a great success. Among the performances were various students of Chinese Professor and Advisor of the Chinese Club, Dr. Binnan Gao. A group of students in Dr. Gao’s Elementary Chinese II class had the chance to demonstrate their pronunciation skills through singing the songs “The Moon Represents My Heart” and “Congratulations,” both in Chinese. Two of Dr. Gao’s students also performed acoustic covers of Chinese songs as a duet, and Bethany Marzella ('24) recited various Chinese tongue-twisters and even challenged the audience to join in.

Following the night's performances, guests were invited to participate in numerous Asian-themed activities, such as (but certainly not limited to) tea tasting, Chinese calligraphy, lantern signing, origami, and games such as Gonggi, Sticks, Gomoku, and Chinese Checkers. Food for the event was catered from five different locally-owned Asian restaurants and markets. With over 200 attendees, it is safe to say that the Lunar New Year Celebration here at Elon was a great hit yet again and an incredible success for all clubs involved.

Written by Holly Cardoza
SPANISH CONCERT
FEATURING LUCÍA PEREIRA AND MANUEL DOMÍNGUEZ
By: Cassidy Ball

On Sunday, March 6th, Spanish Program faculty member Ricardo Mendoza organized a concert featuring Chilean musicians Lucía Pereira on piano and Manuel Domínguez who sings baritone. This husband and wife duo performed a variety of songs in both Spanish and Italian, captivating the audience inside Yeager Recital Hall. Manuel Domínguez’s voice accompanied by Lucía Pereira on the piano gave new interpretations to the songs and made for an enjoyable performance. Their final song was a surprise to the audience and ended the evening on a high note.

The musicians are professors at The Metropolitan University of Education and Music in Chile and have performed all over the world. Earlier in the week, Lucía Pereira and Manuel Domínguez were able to perform and speak in Ricky’s class and share their love of music. Thank you to Ricardo Mendoza and Helen McLeod, a member of the Burlington Community who is involved in cultural events on Elon’s campus, for planning and organizing the event and to Spanish Program faculty member April Post for translating.
In April, Italian Professors Loredana Moccia and Mena Marino hosted a biscotti-making event for students! Students learned how to make the popular Italian “biscotti” from scratch.

**History of Biscotti**
The word “biscotto” comes from the Latin “bis” meaning “twice” and “coctum” meaning “cooked,” which evolved in Italian to “cotto,” meaning “baked.” Oven-baked goods that were cooked twice could be stored for a long time because the second baking makes them hard, dry, and mold-resistant.
Did you know?
During Roman times, the non-perishable biscotti were a staple food during journeys and wars. In Renaissance Tuscany, Biscotti di Prato were made from almonds. Additionally, biscotti largely reemerged thanks to Antonio Mattei, a baker from Prato, in the 1800s.

In modern times, biscotti is no longer a food of sustenance. There is a wide variety of flavors achieved by using different herbs, fruits, nuts, or sweeteners like chocolate. In Tuscany, for instance, biscotti are referred to as cantucci or cantuccini. There, they are sometimes dipped in vin santo, an Italian dessert wine. Even in the US we see them dunked in coffee or hot chocolate. The main ingredients to make biscotti are flour, sugar, eggs, and almonds or pine nuts. The dough is cooked twice to make them crisp before they are cut into an oblong shape.

Event
Cuisine plays a large role in the culture of Italy, with variations from region to region and sometimes even city to city. The Elon Italian Studies program not only focuses on developing linguistic proficiency but also intercultural competence. They also regularly host tiramisù-making workshops and pizza dinners for students enrolled in Italian classes. Food has a way of uniting people and also educating them. These fun events this semester have been an excellent way for students to engage more with Italian culture through cuisine.
This semester, The Department of World Languages and Cultures and Elon’s Latin American Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies Programs hosted a panel event in Spanish titled “The 2019 Chilean Revolution: Conservative Thinking and Post-Democracy.” After having many of the past panel events on Zoom, it was refreshing to have everyone together in-person. The panel was directed by Claudio Salvador Aguayo and Rudy Pradenas, both Ph.D. candidates in Spanish from the University of Michigan.

The purpose of this panel was to create a space for discussing the political state of Chile in light of the protests that took place in October of 2019. The people of Chile endured a neoliberal system developed during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990), and continued to live through this system when it was reinforced by democratic governments up until 2019. As a result, the people of Chile protested the poverty and inequalities they were facing and demanded better living conditions.
Claudio Salvador Aguayo’s presentation titled *Insurrection; Anti-Institutionalism; and Conservative Revolutions* included a review of the responses of conservative writers on the 2019 protests, and asked the question of whether the Chilean Revolution could have been constricted by the alt-right structures that are deeply embedded in the politics of Chile. It is interesting to approach the context of the revolution through the perspective of the alt-right, since the rebellion of the Chilean people was in response to the poor conditions under conservative leadership.

Rudy Pradenas’ presentation titled *Aesthetics of Post-democracy: Notes on Art and State Terrorism in the Chilean Revolt* included an analysis on how the post-dictatorship democratic system in Chile failed as well as a look at the brutal human rights violations by Chilean police during the 2019 protests. Pradenas also covered the artistic work of Cheril Linett and discusses the power of using art as a way to fight against repression.

The 2019 Chilean Revolution was observed internationally as a critical moment in the context of global awakening for social justice. It effectively changed the country’s political structure by providing an opportunity for a new Constitution to be written. The new Constitution has been discussed and drafted during the last year, and will be voted on in the upcoming September of 2022.
Hosted on International Women’s Day, the holiday commemorating the socioeconomic, cultural, and political achievements of women, March 8th, Dr. Brizio highlighted the female members of one of the most important families in Italy’s history.

On this year’s International Women’s Day, Dr. Elena Brizio, a professor at Georgetown as well as the Institute for the International Education of Students in Siena, presented her research on “Women of the Medici Family.” The House of the Medici, a prominent Italian banking family and political dynasty from 1368-1743, contributed to the establishment of the Tuscan state and Florence. Dr. Brizio provided the Elon community with an inside scoop on the lives that these women led and the impact that they had on history.

Dr. Brizio concentrates on improving the visibility of women in Italian history. She was inspired to research the Medici because, in comparison to Sienese, Florentine women appeared to be less free in agency during the Middle Ages and Early Modern periods.

By Aniyah Adams
Dr. Brizio left us with her insight that oftentimes when people discuss the history of the House of Medici, women are not acknowledged enough, even though they played critical roles in developing Italy as we know it. We are so thankful that Dr. Brizio shared her wisdom with us.

**Contessina de’ Bardi**
1390 - 1473

She provided Cosimo de’ Medici with more power and political influence from her noble background.

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**Caterina de’ Medici**
1519-1589

She was queen consort and queen regent of France. She was a patron of art, wife to King Henry II, and mother of French kings Francis II, Charles IX and Henry III.

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**Anna Maria Luisa de’ Medici**
1667 –1743

She bequeathed wealth and assets to preserve history and contributed to Florence being a cultural capital of the world.

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**Other women discussed**

Clarice Orsini, Maddalena di Lorenzo, Caterina Sforza, Madeleine de la Tour d’Auvergne, Giovanna d’Austria, and Bianca Cappello,

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**and more... including**

Maria Maddalena de’ Medici, Margherita Luisa d’Orleans, Cristina di Lorena, Vittoria della Rovere, Eleonora de’ Toledo, Alfonsina Orsini, Lucrezia Tornabuoni and more.

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**By Aniyah Adams**
Feminist Political Ecologies of Healing in the Americas

BY: CASSIDY BALL

On April 27th, the Department of World Languages and Cultures, Latin American Studies Program, and Peace and Conflict Studies Program co-sponsored their annual research series, “Political Ecologies of Healing in the Americas.” They hosted Dr. Gabriela Valdivia, a Professor of Geography at UNC Chapel Hill. Dr. Valdivia presented her research, which focuses on environmental issues in Ecuador, a country that has been impacted by the oil industry and has faced critical social challenges with indigenous communities in the Amazonian. Her talk covered several initiatives that Dr. Valdivia has been participating in over the last few years with the Waorani people. This indigenous group inhabits the Ecuadorian Amazonia and is one of the communities most affected by the modern extraction of oil. Valdivia’s work with the Waorani people has been conducted in collaboration with Flora Lu, professor of Environmental Science at UC Santa Cruz, and financed by the National Science Foundation. Thank you to Dr. Valdivia for coming to speak and to faculty member, Dr. Juan Leal-Ugalde for planning the event!

For more information - https://www.elon.edu/u/news/2022/05/02/latin-geography-expert-gives-talk-on-environmental-issues-in-ecuadorian-amazonia-to-elon-community/

Dr. Gabriela Valdivia

Dr. Valdivia is a Professor of Geography at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Assistant Dean of Honors Carolina. She is a feminist political ecologist examining the relationship between resources and socio-environmental inequities, with a focus on environmental injustices in Latin America. Dr. Valdivia is an author of the digital project "Crude Entanglements," which explores the affective dimensions of oil production; a co-author of Oil, Revolution, and Indigenous Citizenship in Ecuadorian Amazonia; and a co-editor of the Routledge Handbook of Critical Resource Geography.
This Spring, the Global Neighborhood partnered with Elon’s Chinese Club and Arabic Language Organization to host a Global Film Series. Each film was shown in the Global Neighborhood Media Room and followed by a discussion on the content, meaning, and language of the film. First to be shown was Capernaum (كفرناحوم), a 2018 Lebanese drama that won the Jury Prize—an award "intended to recognize an original work that embodies the spirit of inquiry"—when it debuted at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival.

Capernaum is the highest-grossing Arabic and Middle-Eastern film of all time and is praised for its documentary-like realism. The film follows the life of a young boy living in the slums of Beirut through a series of flashbacks, depicting his relationships, encounters with immigrants, and the hardships he faced as a child of neglect. It is a hard-hitting film that provides insight into the lives, cultures, and experiences of those living in the Middle East.
The second film was called *Walking to School* (走路上学), a 2009 Chinese drama film based on a true story that depicts the dangerous route that many children must take in order to get to school across the Nujiang River in Yunnan Province, China. The film follows two young siblings and their daily journeys via an overhead cable to and from school, which eventually results in dire consequences. Following the showing of *Walking to School*, discussion leader and Chinese student Jasper Myers stated that the film highlights issues of “economic disparity, access to education, and ethnic minorities within the mainland” and provides a “glimpse into what life may be like outside of the metropolitan hubs that tend to garner the most attention and tourism in China.”

Neither movie was shown in English—*Capernaum* was in Arabic and *Walking to School* was in Chinese—challenging Arabic and Chinese students alike to put their knowledge of their respective languages to the test by watching and following along. However, no matter the skill level, anyone in attendance could enjoy these movies simply by reading the English subtitles. When asked about the event, Jasper Myers stated, “this movie screening was an incredible event and one of my favorites that the Chinese Club has done thus far.”

As both a challenging and engaging event, the movie screenings provided opportunities for members of the Chinese Club and the Arabic Language Organization to expand their cultural knowledge whilst also practicing their language skills. Events and opportunities like these are invaluable to any language-learner’s growth, and they are a great way to connect with others.
In March, the Department hosted an Ice Cream Social in Carlton Commons for students, staff, and faculty to mingle in a welcoming setting. This event was particularly exciting because it was held the week after Spring Break; the first week in two years that students and professors did not have to wear masks inside. With Elon's mask mandate lifted, we were able to speak in many languages and see smiles that we had not been able to see in a long time. Also, we were able to meet our department's new Program Assistant, Ronnie LoCash! It was wonderful to watch our community members engage in conversations outside of the typical classroom environment.
World Languages and Cultures

END OF YEAR AWARDS CEREMONY
Kimheng Larch is an Economics major with minors in Business Administration and Asian Studies. Kimheng is an Odyssey Scholar from Cambodia and a first-generation college student. Her dedicated service in the Asian Pacific Student Association and in the newly founded Chinese Club as the first Vice President had a big impact on both communities and led to the collaboration between the two in hosting the Lunar New Year celebration of 2021. In terms of second language learning, she studied Chinese for three consecutive years at Elon. She is talented, diligent, and resilient and her language skills have reached intermediate level. COVID-19, unfortunately, disrupted her plan to further her Chinese learning in China to become an advanced learner, and she went to study at Sungkyunkwan University in South Korea instead. After graduation, she is going to study at the intensive Korean program of Middlebury College, but she will continue to learn Chinese as well.
ANNOUNCING THE...

LUCIANA FERMAN

ITALIAN STUDIES Excellence Award

Luciana is a Computer Science major with a minor in Italian Studies.

EMILIA MUÑIZ

ANNOUNCING THE...

SENIOR SPANISH Award

Emilia is a Spanish major with minors in Communications and International and Global Studies. Post-grad, Emilia has a Communications job in Florida.
Pierce Johnson has had a productive Elon career, including majors in Psychology and Philosophy with minors in Statistics, Neuroscience, and Classical Studies. His exceptional work in Latin language and literature has earned him this year’s Outstanding Student in Classical Studies Award. Beginning at the elementary level in his first year, he has pursued his Latin study through the advanced level, tackling Roman epic poetry, oratory, and philosophical literature. After graduation, Pierce plans to apply for a Fulbright fellowship and continue on to graduate study.
ANNOUNCING THE...

MARSILIU S VON INGHEN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN German Studies

Liv has a major in Economics and minors in German Studies and Policy Studies. Liv has taken German all of her four years at Elon, and she is also the longest-serving German Club Officer we have ever had. She is currently deciding between several post-grad options, including a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship to Austria.

LIORA E. WIT TLE

ANNOUNCING THE...

EXCELLENCE IN Hebrew Award

Liora has a major in Biochemistry and minors in both Jewish Studies and Women’s Sex and Gender Studies. After graduating, she plans to go to University of Virginia and pursue a PhD in Chemistry.

OLIVIA "LIV" LEGGETT
ANNOUNCING THE...

OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN
Arabic Award

BLAIRE PALMER  LAUREN WHYTE  KATIE ZIMMERMANN

Blaire is a Media Analytics and International & Global Studies double major with a concentration in the Middle East. Post-grad, she will be working for Human Rights Watch as a Digital and Communications Assistant.

Lauren is an International and Global Studies major with a concentration in the Middle East. After graduation, she will be attending American University Washington College of Law.

Katie is a Political Science and Policy Studies double major. After graduation she is moving to Washington D.C. to pursue a career in government.
ANNOUNCING THE...

PRIX D'EXCELLENCE
En Recherche

ANIYAH ADAMS

Aniyah is an Economics major with minors in French and Leadership Studies. After graduation, she is teaching English in France! Aniyah’s research is titled “Une histoire tue est une histoire tuée: Unsilencing Haitian History in Marie-Célie Agnant’s works.”

ARI YARON

Ari is a French and Policy Studies double major. His engagement with French language has shown through his leadership of the French conversation group each Friday. After graduating, Ari plans to move to France to either teach English or attend graduate school.
ANNOUNCING THE...

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

CASSIDY BALL

KATHERINE WILLIAMS

Cassidy is a double major in Political Science and International and Global Studies with a Latin America concentration. She is minoring in Spanish, Latin American Studies, and Peace and Conflict Studies. After graduating, Cassidy will be moving to South Korea to work as an English teacher.

Katherine is an Elementary Education major with minors in Spanish and Latin American Studies.
Congratulations Seniors!
MEET THE AUTHORS!

Elli Knowlton
Class of 2022

Anna Van Jura
Class of 2022

Cassidy Ball
Class of 2022

Holly Cardoza
Class of 2023

Molly Armstrong
Class of 2022

Aniyah Adams
Class of 2022