

# INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND LANGUAGES DIVISION

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY



## Honoring our grads

APRIL 29, 2016



### OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

**Ellary Dahkle - Asian Studies:** "I learned so much at Pepperdine about East Asian culture, history, and politics, and the International Studies major helped me to connect all of these ideas to the bigger sphere of international relations. One of the highlights of my time at Pepperdine was taking Global Economics, not only because it was very informative, but also because it helped establish a foundation for my understanding of the world that I will never forget."

**Victoria Prentice - French Studies:** Tori has been an active member of Pi Delta Phi since her first year at Pepperdine, serving on the board as both Vice President and President. Throughout her four years at Pepperdine, she has actively promoted the French language and culture on campus. Additionally, through the Seaver Dean's Faculty / Student Mentor Program, she was Dr. Kelle Marshall's TA in FRE 151 in the fall semester of 2015, which inspired her to consider graduate studies in language education. Bravo, Tori, et bon courage!

**Heather Odell - Hispanic Studies:** Regent Scholar, Seaver Scholar, Dean's list, Resident Advisor, Service Learning Coordinator (Nicaragua), International Justice Mission, and a consummate volunteer at home and abroad. Heather worked with the Peace Corps and the Fulbright Commission. She published in *Global Tides* and conducted promising research with both Robert Williams (Political Science) and Kelle Keating (French). "A true star," according to one Hispanic Studies professor.

**Cassandra Santamaria - Italian (minor) INTS European Studies:** Cassy's passion for Italy's language and culture has been appreciated by faculty and fellow students alike, both in and outside the classroom. After studying in Florence, Cassy completed a minor in Italian, serving both as the Italian language tutor and the president of CIAO, Pepperdine's Italian student society.

## *Sigma Delta Pi—Spanish Honor Society*

Hispanic Studies major McKenna Murray was selected for a Sigma Delta Pi Study Aboard Scholarship. The funds will support McKenna's study in Buenos Aires this summer (2016). This will be her second trip to Buenos Aires, and she plans to use this opportunity to work on achieving fluency in Spanish through extensive practice and also to finish her Hispanic Studies major so that she can return to campus and focus on her psychology major. She plans to volunteer at Adulam, a Christian ministry she previously visited on her first trip. The nationally competitive award comes from Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Spanish Honors Society. Pepperdine's chapter of Sigma Delta Pi holds several activities throughout the year, and McKenna is the third Pepperdine student to receive a prestigious award to study abroad.



*McKenna Murray*

## Congratulations Fulbright Recipients

- Catherine Golitzin (Italian, 2015) ETA position, Federal Baltic University, Kaliningrad
- Lauren Haberstock (International Studies, Political Studies, 2016) ETA position, Germany



## News From German Studies

We congratulate the following students who have been inducted into Pepperdine University's chapter of Delta Phi Alpha, the German Honor Society (see photo on right).

Dr. David Dowdey, Professor of German, received a travel grant from the Glazer Institute that will allow him to travel to Israel during May and June. While there, he will have the opportunity to interact with constituencies in Israel who teach about the Holocaust from the Jewish perspective. The trip will also enrich the teaching of his first-year seminar, "Portraits of Resisting Evil in Hitler's Germany."

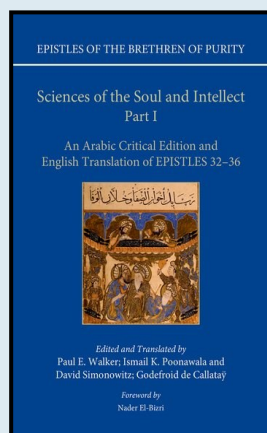


*Dr. Dowdey, Micah Lambert,  
Chloe Doyle,  
Kristopher Mazich, Sydney  
Socquet, Kenneth Warner*

## International Studies: Spotlight on the Middle East

This academic year Dr. Simonowitz co-organized four panels on Space, Place, and Religion for the American Academy of Religion meeting in Atlanta and presented on "Arab Artists in Cold War Capitals" at the Middle East Studies Association meeting in Denver. He organized the lecture of a Jordanian master calligrapher at Pepperdine and also presented on female master calligraphers at the Faculty Research Colloquium for the Center for Women in Leadership. Finally, he published a translation from Arabic into English of a medieval cosmological treatise, "The Universe is a Macro-Anthropos," Epistle 34 of the *Rasa'il Ikhwan al-Safa'* (The Epistles of the Brethren of Purity), with Oxford University Press.

Dr. Simonowitz is pleased to report that Pepperdine students in the INTS Middle East North Africa emphasis and/or studying Arabic language have been accepted into various prestigious graduate programs and institutions this year.



## French Program: Additional Opportunities

Professor Kelle Marshall is excited to take 12 French students on an upper-division program to Lausanne this summer. During this program, students will be able to focus on their French in a Francophone environment while engaging with the local culture. For instance, students will visit the Béthanie retirement home two times per week to visit with residents. Additionally, it is the first time that our French program is able to provide students with the opportunity to stay in the homes of native French speakers. We plan to offer this upper-division program to Lausanne every two years, so plan ahead for the summer of 2018. Vive la Suisse!

## Model United Nation — Congratulations

Model United Nations is a competition club simulating the actual United Nations, where students hone public speaking, debate, research, and negotiation skills. Every year, the student-led Pepperdine MUN team has the opportunity to participate in the international NMUN conference in New York City, which draws over 5,000 students from around the world. In MUN, we discuss pressing global issues ranging from peacekeeping to humanitarian aid to sustainable development. Our goal is to create innovative and informed solutions to relevant international issues, all through a forum of diplomacy and cross-cultural collaboration. This year, twenty-two Pepperdine students competitively represented the Republic of Belarus in a diverse array of NMUN committees. Extensive preparation beforehand, along with exemplary performance during the conference itself, resulted in seven individual awards, along with an overall Outstanding Delegation team award—an unprecedented, 1<sup>st</sup> place honor for Pepperdine.



*MUN Officers  
Hayden Paulsen, Rachel Siegman,  
David Nguyen, Sheena Choy*

## Highlights in the Italian Program



Catherine Golitzin (Seaver, '15) won a Fulbright ETA position at the Federal Baltic University in Kaliningrad. While primarily teaching English, Catie reports that she also had the opportunity to teach Italian. Jennie Olivia (2015, Italian minor) also received word that she had won the \$2,500 Casola Prize which is helping fund her graduate studies in music at UCLA.

In September twenty students enjoyed a "Cooking Night with Nicco and Lorenzo," organized by the CIAO Club. Nicco and Lorenzo are two young Italians who have worked with Pepperdine's students in Florence and were visiting Malibu.

In November, Dr. Sherry Roush (Penn State University) gave a well-received lecture entitled "Getting to God without Going Anywhere: A Map for Dante's Journey through Paradise." This was a collaboration between the Italian and Great Books programs. Professors Lissoni, Corbucci and Stewart all attended the ACTFL conference in San Diego with Dr. Stewart presenting alongside ISL colleagues Dr. Keating Marshall (organizer) and Dr. Lila Carlsen in a session on Developing Global Competency through High Impact Practices in the Classroom.

The spring semester finished with the annual meeting of Gamma Kappa Alpha, the National Italian Honor Society. Congratulations to Xavia Gamboa on her induction to Gamma Kappa Alpha.



## Outstanding International Studies Majors

INTS, European Specialization - Meredith Winn

INTS, Intercultural Communication - Kaylyn Hamilton

INTS, Management - Dominique Leaf

INTS, Middle East & North Africa - Amanda McKee

INTS, Political Studies - Sheena Choy and Lauren Habershtock

Overall International Studies - Heather Odell

## Alumna Survives Terrorist Attack while Serving in West Africa

*"The only sound was a baby crying for his mother in French:  
"Maman! Maman!" he screamed.  
A gunshot. A woman screaming. Another gun shot. Silence.  
The attackers began shooting at everyone in the room,  
laughing and rolling explosive devices onto the ground."*

*-taken from Graphic Article, March 23, 2016*

In January of 2016, alumna La'Nita Johnson was doing humanitarian work in Burkina Faso when the hotel restaurant that she was in was attacked by terrorists. La'Nita, a 2014 Hispanic Studies/ International Studies graduate, was leading a team of GE sales representatives with the non-profit group Build On when the attack occurred. La'Nita said that this experience changed the timetable for her to leave corporate America and return to graduate school. Soon after recovering from her ordeal, La'Nita applied to and was accepted into the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

Recognizing that desperation often leads individuals down a path of destruction, La'Nita plans to continue in her endeavors to improve opportunities for education and employment in areas that have been stricken by problematic circumstances.



**Paul Begin**  
ISL Divisional Dean

To the parents of our graduates, we thank you for supporting your sons and daughters and for entrusting them to us. To our students, we thank you for the effort that you have given to your coursework and co-curricular activities, for enriching our classes with your insights and energy, and for your desire to know the world more deeply and to make it a more hospitable place. As you leave here and go forward, take stock of the cumulative impact of your experience at Pepperdine and note how your worldview is expanded, how your connections to others are enriched, and how your ability to understand and address real world issues is enhanced. This is not the end of your education.