Students Garner Record Number of Awards and Scholarships

Alex Antonas Awarded a Critical Language Scholarship to Study in China

Alex Antonas, an electrical engineering major, was awarded the nationally competitive Critical Language Scholarship and will spend this summer studying in Changchun, Chian, in the northeast part of the country near the border with North Korea. The program will include intensive language classes, and he will live with a local roommate in university dorms. He has also been paired with a language partner to help improve his spoken Chinese and expose him to more aspects of the local culture. Antonas began studying Chinese in high school and has about five years of experience with the language.

Jonathan Barsness Awarded Prestigious Boren Fellowship

Jonathan Barsness, a doctoral student in political science and advanced Arabic student, has received a David L. Boren Fellowship, a highly competitive national award that provides funding for US graduate students to learn less commonly taught languages. Barsness will use the Boren Fellowship, part of the National Security Education Program, to study at the Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan. He has also received a Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Ibri, Oman during the summer of 2016 and the UT Department of Political Science William G. McCall Award for Dissertation Research.

Two Doctoral Students in Spanish Program Awarded UT Graduate School Fellowships

Jessica Blanco-Marcos received a Herman E. Spivey Humanities Graduate Fellowship from UT Graduate School. These fellowships are granted to outstanding first-year enrolled graduate students.

çngela PŽrez del Puerto, also a doctoral student in Spanish, received a Yates Dissertation Fellowship from UT Graduate School (2015-2016) to support the completion of her dissertation entitled "La censura cat—lica literaria durante la Posguerra espa–ola: Traspasando las fronteras de la ideolog'a franquista" (Catholic Literary Censorship During the Spanish Postwar: Beyond Franco's Ideology).

Alexandra Brito Awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Internship

Alexandra (Alex) Brito, a participant in the College Scholars Program and a student of French working with Harriet

Bowden, assistant professor of Spanish, has been awarded a UT Undergraduate Summer Research Internship to begin work on her senior thesis project, "Effect of language immersion on advanced, late learners of French as revealed by electroencephalography". She has been awarded a stipend and will present her results at Discovery Day in the fall.

Desiree Dube Awarded Fulbright Fellowship to Russia

Desiree Dube, who is majoring in Russian language and culture, was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Fellowship to spend the next year teaching English in Russia. She has studied Russian since her freshman year at UT and has previously received a Critical Language Scholarship to study intensive Russian in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. Her positive experiences in Russia inspired her to apply for the Fulbright. She has not yet been told what city she will work in, but she knows she will teach English at a university and also plans to begin a book club that focuses on American/British and Russian short stories.

Catherine Greer Receives Numerous Research Grants

Catherine Greer, a doctoral student in German, was awarded two research grants for summer 2016, a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) German Studies grant for archival research in Germany, and UT's W. K. McClure Scholarship for the Study of World Affairs, which she will use to conduct archival research in Israel. She will also be a Fellow with the Holocaust Educational Foundation at Northwestern University for their Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization. In July, she will present a paper at the "Children and War" conference held at the University of Salzburg. During the past year she has presented at conferences in Holocaust Studies, Musicology, German Studies, and Digital Humanities.

Lucy Greer and Joud Monla-Hassan Awarded Summer Internships in Washington, DC

Lucy Greer, an Arabic minor, has received two internships in Washington, DC for the summer of 2016. She will serve as an intern at the National Council on US-Arab Relations and the Middle East Policy Council. Joud Monla-Hassan, an Arabic minor, has received an internship with the Human Rights Watch in the Middle East and North Africa division in Washington, DC. She will conduct research on human rights violations in the region.

Joy Hancock Wins Dissertation Competition

Joy Hancock, a doctoral student in German, won first place at UT's first Three Minute Thesis Competition. She competed against fourteen other graduate students from various disciplines. Joy presented her dissertation research under the title: "Blood and Snow: Nationalism and Ice Spaces in German Science Fiction." She has completed her coursework for the doctorate and will continue her dissertation research on the role of ice as the "reimagined" conservative battlefield in 1920s speculative novels.

Cheyanne Leonardo Received Two Awards and a Scholarship

Cheyanne Leonardo, a French major, was awarded both the 2016 Chancellor's Award for Extraordinary Academic Achievement and the J. Wallace & Katie Dean Graduate Fellowship (2016-2017) to continue her studies in the French and Francophone Studies Master's Degree Program at UT. She was also named the 2016 Outstanding Graduate in French Studies.

Katie Plank Received Taiwan-United States Sister Relations Alliance Summer Scholarship

Katie Plank, who is majoring in biology and minoring in Chinese, received a Taiwan-United States Sister Relations Alliance Summer Scholarship to study in Taiwan this summer. Though she began studying Chinese by chance, after working as a tour guide and language partner for Chinese exchange students, she has now spent three years learning the language and is interested in translation as well as science and language education. She plans to continue studying Chinese while also pursuing additional languages.

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