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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Center for European Studies
European Union Center of Excellence

Funding Recipients

2006-07 FLAS Academic Year Award Recipients

Name Waitman Beorn

Department History

Language German

Research Waitman Beorn is a native of Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2000. After his army service including a tour in Iraq, he entered the PhD program at UNC. Waitman is currently investigating attitudes and responses of German soldiers during World War II toward participation in atrocities. His academic year FLAS award enabled him to better understand witness testimony and wartime letters, by increasing his aptitude in reading the German archival and letter sources that formed the basis for his master's thesis.



Name Sebastian Cobarrubias

Department Geography

Language

Italian / Catalan

Research

Sebastian's research focuses on a unique constellation of political practices emerging in different parts of Southern Europe. In particular the dissertation research will focus on the use of cartography as broader part of what is called "activist research" by social movements in two different sites. In Catalunya and Italy these new mapping practices on the part of social movements are being used in order to better understand and communicate the changing shape of their respective territories in the light of the global economy, European integration, immigration flows, flexibilizing labor markets and the changing contours of civil society. This work will attempt to better understand these practices as well as relate them to the political and cultural histories of their respective regions. Sebastian came to his PhD work after several years working in the non-profit sector on question of global economic integration and reform as well as political advocacy.



Name

Lisa Fox

Department

Political Science

Language

Dutch



Research Lisa Fox obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a major in politics and an emphasis on German politics and history. She spent several years travelling and working with Head Start as a family advocate before beginning graduate work in political science at UNC-CH in 2002. She initially studied political theory at UNC before changing her focus to European politics, particularly the Netherlands. Her Ph. D. project is centered on questions of national identity and the impact of such identity on attitudes towards immigrants, immigration, and European integration. Political theory continues to inform her work and remains an abiding interest of Ms. Fox.

Name Udoaku Camilla Ihenetu
Department TransAtlantic Masters Program
Language Spanish
Research Udoaku "Camilla" Ihenetu is Nigerian. She graduated in May 2006 from UNC-CH in Political Science and International Studies. As a TAM student, she is currently studying in Madrid.



Name Rebecca Sivy
Department TransAtlantic Masters Program
Language Italian

Research

Rebecca Sivy is a 2005 graduate from the University of Michigan where she majored in Political Science and Italian. She spent her junior year in a full-immersion study abroad program through the UC schools in Padua, Italy. She made the decision to apply to the TAM program while teaching in Tianjin, China last summer. She spent this year residing and working in northeast Ohio. Rebecca has interned in Michigan's 15th Congressional District Office and has worked for Knotice, an online communications company, as an Account Specialist. She will study in Siena.



Name

Desirée Marie Suo

Department

TransAtlantic Masters Program

Language

Italian

Research

Desirée Suo is from Staten Island, New York. She graduated from NYU in May 2006 with majors in History and Italian and a minor in Fine Arts. Desirée also studied abroad at NYU in Florence. As an undergraduate, she focused her coursework and research on interactions between different immigrant and racial groups within the United States. As a student in the TAM Program, she will be studying in Siena, focusing her research on migration and multiculturalism within the EU.



Name

Sarah Vierra

Department

History

Language

Turkish

Research

A native of Oregon, Sarah Thomsen Vierra entered the PhD program in the History Department at UNC-Chapel Hill in fall 2004. Her research centers around the experiences of Turkish immigrants and their children in post-World War II West Germany. Having the academic year FLAS has enabled her to focus more intensively on developing her German and Turkish language skills, both of which are necessary for her own research and to engage with the research of other scholars in the field.



2006 FLAS Summer Award Recipients



Meg Austin

I will enroll in an intensive language program in Taormina, Sicily, where I will spend six weeks gaining proficiency in the Italian language. I hope to leave with confidence in my listening and conversational skills, and return to enter my first semester in the Trans-Atlantic Masters program prepared to build on this confidence. I aim to arrive in Siena in January 2007 ready to approach as many "living sources" for my thesis project as possible.



Ian Clayton

The Gaelic language of Scotland is a fascinating object of study for several reasons. I became intrigued by the Celtic languages when I first explored Old Irish, the parent language of Gaelic, and I wish to experience Gaelic at all stages of its evolution. As a student of linguistics, I plan to investigate Gaelic's phonological and syntactic idiosyncrasies. First-hand experience with the language is a prerequisite for my linguistic investigation. As an individual, I am deeply concerned by the rapid retreat of Gaelic in the face of English preeminence, and hope that my own studies may contribute to the preservation of this fascinating language. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on the Scottish island of Skye, will be an ideal place for me to pursue these interests.



Susannah Kirby



This summer I will attend the German Language School at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. Middlebury's Summer Language Schools are intensive language programs which rely not only on 4 hours of class instruction per day, but also on a "language pledge" which requires that students speak, listen, read, and write the language of study as their only means of communication for the duration of the program, even while not in class. My goal is to perfect my German in order to collect child language data in German for my upcoming dissertation in linguistics (first language acquisition).



Clint Lloyd

I am a law student at UNC and plan to use my FLAS grant to study Swedish in Uppsala, Sweden. My research interests include the role of the welfare state in a hyper-global economy and a comparative study of the laws and social norms of the United States and Sweden, particularly in the areas of environmental strategy, gender equality, and business and lifestyle structure.



Elena Oxman

I am currently pursuing my Ph.D in English at UNC-Chapel Hill, focusing on film criticism and philosophy. I will use my summer FLAS grant to study French at the Institut Catholique de Paris. My goal is to achieve a level of proficiency that will allow me to work with a variety of French texts that will be central to my dissertation on Impressionist and Phenomenological film criticism.



Alison Shahan

I am an MLS student interested in special libraries. With my FLAS award I will spend the summer in Berlin studying at GLS. There I plans to develop my German skills and obtain fluency with which I can further my research in the arts and become a desired candidate as a professional in a museum or as an art librarian. I am currently working in the Ackland Art Museum's registration department researching and curating a German Expressionism exhibition "Showing Expresssion: Selections from the Ackland's Collection of German Expressionist Prints."



Nanda Suriano

I will be studying French at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France. I am interested in the health care structure of the developing economies that have recently joined the EU, and the economic consequences that converging to the EU health standards is having and will have in these member countries. How does converging to EU health standards affect quality of care across the socioeconomic spectrum and how are corruption and efficiency altered as a result of changes to the health industry structure? What is the cost associated with this transition? I am interested in how the changing health care policy models of the developing European economies can be applied to under-developed countries in the under-developed economies i.e. sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. In order to have a comprehensive understanding of the issues involved in health care deliverance in developing and under-developed economies, it is crucial to understand the official languages in which a vast majority of the research is being conducted, and which is used as an/the official language in a significant number of the organizations and governments relevant to my interests. To have a strong understanding of international health care structure, conditions, needs, and solutions that transcend the borders of industrialized and developing economies for application in under-developed nations, it is imperative that I am able to fluently utilize one of the primary languages used in analyzing the factors that affect access to health care resources, information, and services - especially in many under-developed African nations in which there is less written work to begin with, and what exists is often primarily in French, being able to effectively communicate in the language will be critical.
