Congratulations to our 2019/20 MCL Outstanding Graduates!

Chinese - Shapei Baker
Shapei has impressed all faculty of the Chinese Program with her meticulous ability and dedication to acquire Chinese language competence and cultural knowledge. She always takes on intellectual challenge with persistence and confidence. One faculty with whom Shapei has taken four courses wrote "I was impressed by the quality and quantity of her written assignments and final papers, all of which were full of thought-provoking ideas. She has really set an excellent example for all students who major and minor in Chinese." Shapei's excellence in learning is demonstrated by, but not limited to, the highest GPA (3.86) among Chinese graduate seniors this year. Her kindness and willingness to help others has stood as a shining example for all.

French - Sofia Jensen
Sofia began studying French in school when she was 13 years old. When she was 16, she received the Alliance française award from the New Mexico chapter. She also received the French Award from her high school’s language department in 2017. She will be graduating from Western with a Bachelor of Arts in French and a minor in International Studies. She has maintained an overall 4.0 GPA. In the summer of 2018, she studied abroad for one month in Montréal, Canada, with Professor Christina Keppie through the WWU Global Learning Program. In the fall of 2019, she studied abroad in Ifrane, Morocco, at Al Akhawayn University, where she continued my studies in French, Arabic, and international studies. She has been a member of WWU’s French Club. After graduation, she plans on taking a gap year, either working in her home state of New Mexico, or going to France to be a teaching assistant through the TAPIF (Teaching Assistant Program in France). She then plans to study for a master’s in social work or primary education with a TESOL certificate.

German - Holly Lund
Holly graduated summa cum laude in March 2020 with a BA in German and Linguistics and a minor in Russian and Eurasian Studies. She is an Honors student with a perfect 4.0 GPA who has already published an excellent article on "The Linguistic Capital of Amazon's 'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel Season 1'" in Occam’s Razor. The German section unanimously chose Holly because of her outstanding contributions to our program. She was one of our brightest, most diligent, thoughtful and enthusiastic students. Her contributions culminated in spring 2019 when she played a pivotal role in directing a play about the refugee crisis in Europe written by Austrian playwright Vladimir Vertlib. Holly Lund will participate in the USTA Program (sponsored by Fulbright) next year in Bad Ischl, Austria where she will be teaching English as a second language to Austrian Youth.

Spanish - Nancy Brill
Nancy has been in every way an outstanding student of Spanish. During her time at Western, she has studied abroad in Ecuador and participated in the Honors Program, taken a variety of challenging courses, and worked in the Employee Language Program. Her instructors in Spanish linguistics courses have been impressed by her quick grasp of complex topics. She has equally excelled in Hispanic literature classes. In fact, she has perfect grades in all of her Spanish classes so far. Her academic activities go beyond the classroom: she has worked with two faculty members on a research and teaching project designing and implementing pronunciation curriculum for intermediate Spanish classes at Western and has presented her findings at major conferences. She has been active in the Spanish program's events and activities and has had a leading role in organizing many of them. It has been a pleasure for all of the Spanish faculty to have her in our program.