

Project: Transatlantic Language Internships (Stockton/EUC Internship Exchange)

School: ARHU

Proposers: David Roessel and Lisa Honaker

Introduction: The goal of this project is to build a student exchange with a service-learning component between Stockton and the European University Cyprus.

A properly functioning exchange program is set up so that students and/or faculty are going back and forth each year for a period of time that creates a deep bond between the two universities. At the present time, Stockton has exchange programs that function during the summer and study abroad programs for students who want to go for an entire semester. The EUC/Stockton exchange will have student mobility for entire semesters, and will use internships to integrate the exchange students into communities. Our goal is to create a successful model for Stockton to use with other institutions so that Stockton will be a vibrant participant in international exchanges, both in sending Stockton students abroad and in having foreign students at Stockton. This program plans to have Stockton and EUC exchange one to two students per year over a period of years, but the impact it is not restricted to those students. It will impact the classes the exchange student attends, the student and faculty who work with the student intern, and also the other semester-long exchange programs Stockton sets up with other universities. An exchange program has many advantages over simply having study abroad opportunities. There is student mobility between the institutions every year, which builds a strong connection between both students and faculty. The students will have an internship on each side, which will allow them to use skills acquired at the home institution during their time abroad.

Further, the students coming from EUC will impact on Stockton students with the work they will be doing to support and further translation work on our campus. Translation is important in both language and literature study. (Indeed, part of the rationale for the incoming hire in Creative Writing is her experience with translation and translation pedagogy. EUC students will work with faculty in LCST and LITT to coordinate translation workshops as well as tutoring and participating in the weekly Language Tables. Stockton students at EUC will man the tutoring center, set up this year by Stockton TES, Ciara Barrick, putting into practice writing and tutoring pedagogy gained through the Writing minor coursework (the Writing Practicum in particular) and their work in the Stockton Writing Center. Those Stockton students participating in the exchange before their final semester at Stockton will also bring their experiences back to our own writing center and the students who use its services. (More detail on specific activities appears below.)

Purpose/Goal: The purpose of our request is to provide funding to set up the Stockton/EUC exchange program with a student internship component.

Although an EU country with a long British colonial history, Cyprus still faces challenges as a small island nation opening itself up to the wider world. Younger generations do not

speak English as fluently as their grandparents. Our project addresses these problems by creating a transatlantic tutoring system to promote improved language skills for the next generation of English language teachers in Cyprus, while allowing American students to use their language skills abroad. The majority of students of English at the European University Cyprus (EUC) in Nicosia and of American foreign language students at Stockton University in New Jersey will be future global language teachers. The goal then is to reach language teachers-in-training and ultimately future generations of their students across the globe.

On the Stockton side, we needed someone with an intimate knowledge of EUC, including their English language tutoring activities, and who could promote EUC to Stockton and Stockton to EUC. Thus, we thought the above-mentioned Ciara Barrick, a Stockton graduate who spent a year at EUC as an English Teaching Fulbright Fellow, was the perfect person to make this happen. She had worked with faculty on both sides, knew students on both campuses, and had the time to be our representative in working out all the details. Ms. Barrick has coordinated with the faculty and administration at both schools so that the memorandum of agreement has been signed. Indeed, without Ms. Barrick's participation we would not be able to start a successful internship exchange program. Last spring, Ms. Barrick wrote a proposal for a Stockton/EUC exchange that won a prestigious State Department Fulbright Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) grant (only 51 of 829 applications were awarded, only ten in Europe, and this was the first for ever for Cyprus). The grant paid for Ms. Barrick's housing in Nicosia to liaison for Stockton for half of the academic year (the grant does not offer any stipend or travel expenses). This meant that Ms. Barrick, who was hired as Stockton TES to represent us in the exchange, could spend five months at EUC working on our behalf on the exchange with both EUC and the embassy in Nicosia. She has been incredibly successful, and the embassy has recognized that the kinds of activities we have planned could only happen if there is someone like Ms. Barrick to get them done. The goal of her work is about to be reached. In September, Naijasia Thomas, a LITT major and EOF student, will go to EUC as a student intern. In Spring 2018, Christiania Kouvalas will spend a semester at Stockton.

A great deal of thought was put into how to create a continuing exchange program that would consider the benefits each student would bring to his/her respective host institution. Working with her EUC colleagues and using her own experience, Ms. Barrick identified that there was a need for an English Writing Center to assist EUC students with writing assignments. She also found that students were more willing to seek help in a peer-to-peer setting, especially from someone whom they saw in the classroom. In addition, David Roessel had asked Ms. Barrick to get involved with EUC's literary and arts journal *Cadences* that highlights literary translation. The Stockton Text Center and ARHU have discussed encouraging literary translation and having it either become a part of the *Stockpot* or another new creation, and the LCST has plans to offer training in the growing field of Translation Studies. This led to the idea of a weekly translation workshop at Stockton led by an EUC student who had experience working with *Cadences*. The presence of the Cypriot student will promote and encourage Stockton students to engage more deeply in foreign languages. Ciara Barrick has also worked on

the sorts of training that students would need to have at both institutions before departure. For Stockton, the campus-wide impact would be to have students engage with languages that they have learned at another level. It is important to have a forum where students can speak in other languages, and the new development of the Stockton language tables have created those spaces. But it is also important for students to think of translation as an intellectual activity, to be able to share translation in the manner that students of creative writing do. The translation workshop will be open to all languages, which will focus on the challenges of translation as a field of study. Its goal will be to make a center for translation studies on campus that will spread this idea around our community. The English Writing Center at EUC will target BA English students but is open to students of various majors who need to complete their assignments in English—particularly those students enrolled in the EFL (English Foreign Language) programs. In both cases, it allows the exchange student to communicate and understand their peers by allowing them to use their skills to assist the development of other students. Dr. Tournay-Theodotou and Mrs. Marina Elia will assume responsibility within their regular duties to oversee the success of this program. Dr. David Roessel will have a similar responsibility at Stockton. Students from EUC coming to Stockton will be chosen by a committee made up of Mrs. Elia, Dr. Tournay-Theodotou, and Dr. Stavros Karayannis. Students from Stockton will be chosen by a committee made up of Dr. David Roessel, Ms. Pam Cross, and Dr. Lisa Honaker. This exchange not only provides that tutoring to EUC and to Stockton but also works to help Stockton’s mission to globalize and diversify their campus.

Activities:

EUC TUTORING CENTER

EUC will gain a Writing Center for students in the English BA program. Having conferred with Dean Honaker and Professor Roessel throughout August and September 2016, Ms. Barrick has spent AY2016-2017 establishing this center at EUC. Going forward, each semester, a Stockton student at EUC will assist as a tutor in the Writing Lab within a new Writing Center at EUC directed by Dr. Marina Elia (she performs the functions that Pam Cross does for us). This will be not be a Stockton Center hosted by another university, but a Center created and run by EUC faculty and administrators with a Stockton student as a tutor intern. The duties of the student intern will be similar to the duties of the Writing Tutors in our Tutoring Center, and they will have similar administrative oversight and assistance, as suggested above.

STOCKTON’S TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

On the receiving end of the exchange, Stockton will be receiving a student to help with the Stockton Text Center’s new translation project, a weekly translation workshop at Stockton led by an EUC student who had experience working with *Cadences*. It is important to note that such a workshop is not limited to any language specifically; the EUC student is not working to help in Greek or Russian or Arabic translation (depending on their language skills) but to talk about the process of translation. Many EUC courses are taught in English and the university draws students from around Eastern Europe and

the Middle East. (The student EUC has selected to come to Stockton in Spring 2018 is a native Russian speaker.) One of the strengths of the EUC Literature program is its emphasis on linguistics and its course, taught by Dr. Stavros Karayannis, *Literary Translation*. The EUC student coming to Stockton would be discussing the value and process of thinking and writing in a second language.

We have used the term “translation workshop” for the new initiative at Stockton as a working term. Rather than be a new Center with a capital C, this focus on translation from many languages will be part of the existing Stockton Text Center. It has always been the goal of the Stockton Text Center, with its focus on archival, textual, and performance activities, to include translation as a creative art form as well as to connect with the growing field of Translation Studies in cooperation with the Languages and Cultures Studies and Literature programs. David King and Arnaldo Cordero-Roman have supervised translations of Eugene Ionesco into English and Tennessee Williams into Spanish for previous Text Center projects. Those colleagues, like Gorica Majstorovic who is working on a translation studies project at the moment, are eager to assist the effort and to be involved with the languages that they teach and know. Further, the Literature program has just hired Sarah Novic as an incoming Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, in part, because of her work in translation. We will reach out to other people on campus who have done translations from other languages (David Lechner, in the library, Judy Copeland in GENS, JY Zhou, and others on the campus who have been engaged with translation projects.)

The “translation tutor,” then, will be available to talk to students about the unique issues of translation from another language. Like an English tutor, the role of the translation tutor is to assist students with a project and offer suggestions for further thought. The translation tutor is a resource, someone who can offer guidance before the text is read for final approval for the forum where we will publish the best efforts, in the same way an English tutor can offer guidance for composition. We have models of Translation Studies workshops and courses where people who work on different languages come together to talk about the issues they face. In essence, this project will resemble the current Stockton language tables, where there is a model that is used for many languages. In creative translation, all of the students might need some advice and guidance when starting out. What we envision is, to use the language tables analogy, that the translation tutor would be the person who would help train the student leaders at different language tables. The languages will all be different, but since their core function is similar they could all have a similar training. In fact, be think that these tutors could also participate in the language tables. We have had a discussion with JY Zhou, Stockton’s Globalization specialist, and she has offered her advice and support for this idea. Because the translation tutor will have come from working on the EUC literary journal *Cadences*, which publishes in Turkish, Greek, English, as well as other languages on occasion, they will already have experience working on a project in some languages that they do not know.

In fact, Professor Roessel went to EUC in the beginning of February where he and three Stockton students took part in the launch of the new issue *Cadences*, and, in the process helped select the student Ms. Christiana Kouvalas, who will come to Stockton for the

2017-18 school year. In the next year (AY 2017-18), Professor Constadina Harlambous will come to Stockton to give a two-week translation workshop here at Stockton.

Outcomes and Assessment: Working with JY Zhou in the Office of Global Engagement, we have made plans to assess the program and the outcomes we hope to achieve. The faculty supervisors at both institutions will collect student surveys about the effectiveness of the two centers described above. Also, there will be exit interviews for the exchange students so we have an understanding of their experiences. One problem with exchange programs, especially when they start, is that only one student comes from and to a host institution. How quickly that student gets involved in student organizations and feels a part of the new community is mostly left to happenstance. This model is designed to fill a real need at both campuses while integrating exchange students into the fabric of their new schools in a way that lets them employ their own skills. It will also, we hope, integrate the two campuses. The best outcome would be for students at EUC to have meetings about how they can improve the translation workshop at Stockton, and students at Stockton meet to discuss the best approaches for the English Writing Center at EUC.

Each student who participates in the exchange will be required to complete a number of tasks in order for us to collect the necessary data to determine our success. With the exit interviews mentioned above, we should be able to see to what extent they were able to engage in the campus community and society, which activities they found the most rewarding, which local organizations they teamed up with during their stay. Each year as we collect these exit interviews we will be able to compile more resources for new exchange students. Imagine a Cypriot student who spends a semester at Stockton but also volunteers at the Noyse Museum or works in Atlantic City with the Service Learning Office. We can continue these ties throughout the years so that with each incoming student, there will be a plethora of opportunities for them with connections already established. The exit interviews will also provide us a way to see what went wrong, what can be improved, where there may have been gaps.

Students will also be required to make a presentation about their exchange. Stockton's Day of Scholarship and International Week both offer excellent opportunities for our students to share their stories with other students who may not have known they have this wonderful opportunity to study abroad, or perhaps know nothing about Cyprus. These presentations will be again work towards Stockton's globalization goals.

Finally, we'd ask that each student write a reflective essay that will be printed in ICHS's journal. As the area around EUC is primarily Greek, our students will be immersed in Greek-Cypriot culture. Their experiences would be welcomed by the Friends of Hellenic Studies Society and would offer insight into a world that isn't often shared in America.

Summary of the Budget Request: We are revising our budget request to **\$8,000** to cover expenses incurred during AY 2016-17 and AY 2017-18:

AY2016-17: \$6000.00

- **\$6,000** will be used to fund Ciara Barrick as a Stockton TES to set up the Writing Center at EUC and the Translation internship at Stockton. (ARHU has already paid for Ms. Barrick's plane fare and expenses for Fall 2016; we will no longer be seeking reimbursement for those costs but only for her Spring 2017 expenses-- living expenses and plane fare.)
- Professor Constadina Haralamous of EUC will be in New York on a Fulbright in the fall, and will visit Stockton during her time there. Her Stockton expenses are covered by the AEIF. (**No cost**)
- David Roessel went to EUC in February, his travel expenses were covered by the fact that he combined that visit with the invitation to give the Annual Archives lecture at The American School of Classical Studies in Athens. (**No cost**)

AY2017-18: \$3500.00

- For the second year, we are requesting **\$3500.00** for the Stockton students selected to go to EUC to work in the newly created Writing Center. Our first student, Ms. Thomas, is an EOF student and can thus use her scholarship money while abroad so only needs an airplane ticket (\$1500.00). (Please see the next bullet for a discussion of housing.) In planning for the spring, we ask for the cost of the plane ticket and an additional \$500.00 stipend for the student's food and sundry living expenses. EUC will provide a similar sum for an EUC student to come to Stockton. We hope by then to have demonstrated the need and success of this endeavor. (**Two plane tickets @ \$1500.00 each and one \$500.00 stipend**)
- Stockton and EUC are moving toward a housing swap for the exchange students in recognition of the internship they will do on each campus. We have already had preliminary discussions with Stockton Dean of Students, Pedro Santana, who is open to the idea of the housing swap due to the ways in which it benefits Stockton students. Preliminary discussions with EUC's Vice-Rector, Andreas Efsthathiou, and President, Andreas Orphanides, have also been promising on this issue. (**No cost**)

By the start of 2018/19, the plan is to have these costs covered by Erasmus Plus or the Niarchos Foundation. (It might be possible to get some of this funding earlier, but we wanted to make sure that the program could start as projected.) Ms. Barrick acted throughout 2016-17 as the lead investigator for the submission of the Erasmus Plus application to the EU. She has been working with Efi Michael of EUC on compiling the application and materials for the Erasmus Plus program. Erasmus Plus grants provide funding for the mobility of faculty and students for five years. EUC Vice-Rector Efsthathiou and President Orphanides, have chosen this project to be EUC's first Erasmus Plus request. We will also apply to the Niarchos Foundation, which has grant for exchange programs.

CONCLUSION

We recognize that Ms. Barrick's work is coming to completion next month, and the 2020 Committee might think that there is no reason to take this matter up. There was clearly a

time consideration to this request. We were told by the Globalization Committee in October that the proposal would be deferred and taken up later. We accepted that decision and have only respect for the committee and the chairs who made it. But we do ask that we be given due consideration at this time. We asked to fund Ciara Barrick's work on behalf of this project as part of our budget. ARHU has already fronted the funds for her work in order to bring us to the point that the exchange may actually start. We will send a Ms. Thomas to EUC in September to begin the exchange; Ms. Kouvalas will come to Stockton from EUC in Spring 2018. We will, then, by the end of the next academic year be able to fully implement the concept for which preparatory work was done this year.

This initiative grew out of a 2014 2020 Globalization award to host a conference, "Lines Between: Culture and Empire in the Eastern Mediterranean" with EUC. In that proposal, we said that the conference would lead to closer and ongoing relations with EUC. Sondra Sainsbury, the Fulbright Director in Cyprus, attended that conference. It was because EUC and Stockton were working together that Ciara Barrick was placed at EUC as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant the following year. The next year, with the support of the Cyprus Fulbright organization, Ms. Barrick received the AEIF. Then this year, a Cypriot who has taught at EUC, Nicoletta Demetriou, received a Fulbright Fellowship to come to teach at Stockton for Fall 2017 semester. Our work on this exchange program has put Stockton on the radar of the Cyprus Fulbright Director and the embassy in Nicosia, and the results can be seen in the fellowships received. We have gotten three Fulbright awards in three years. That is the result of a lot of hard work by many parties, including Dean Honaker. But without Ciara Barrick's efforts during this last year, we would not be where we are.

Finally, we are grateful for the help and support of the Languages and Cultures Studies Faculty, JY Zhou, and others on the Stockton campus. We are also pleased to have worked and met with, at last count, fifteen faculty and administrators at EUC. We welcome more involvement and input as we go forward. We are intentionally starting this program on a small scale. The vision of a Stockton journal devoted to the other languages and cultures is one we can reach. The Director of the Cyprus Fulbright Office and Embassy Alumni Coordinator, Dr. Sondra Sainsbury, has agreed to work with this exchange program to aid in cooperation with the Cyprus Ministry of Education for the eventual placement of tutors in the community. She wants to see four of five Stockton students in Nicosia who will be connected to local high schools and four or five EUC students involved in our local schools—in essence, globalized service-learning at the secondary level. If we can build on this plan, there has already been a suggestion of funding and support for the expanding this concept. It is a wonderful vision. We hope that the 2020 committee will help us plant the seed to see how far this idea can grow.