



# ay There

Issue No. 22

The Department of Modern Languages Newsletter

Summer 2000

## Experience in the Real World: Student Interns and Volunteers

Students learning a foreign language are eager to use their skills in a situation outside the classroom that might interest them as a future career. When Jonathan Leal was an undergraduate, he knew he wanted to combine his fluency in French and German with a business experience abroad. In the summer of 1999 he had an internship at the Fortis Bank in Brussels, Belgium, where he spoke French and used his German to help understand Flemish. For Jonathan, working with professionals was invigorating and challenging. Being in a work environment where I had to speak only French was amazing, he said. My understanding of the language progressed exponentially, and the financial surroundings proved a great stepping stone for my future career. Immediately after earning his M.A. in French at Ohio University in June 2000, Jonathan began a fifteen-month M.B.A. program which will enhance his future opportunities in the business world.

International business is one of the fastest growing fields that desperately needs professionals with language proficiency. Travis Fling, a business and Spanish major, went on our department's study abroad program to Mexico, where he did an internship with Despacho Mir, an international company specializing in hotels and resorts along the Caribbean coast. Travis gained experience in the accounting office in Mérida and then was sent to Cancún for a week. Other students in Mérida have worked in a hardware store, a private hospital, city government, a law office, a radio station, a health clinic, a steel company, and as translators for businesses.

Our program in Pamplona, Spain requires students to perform community service for 10 hours per week. During the past

two academic years, students have taught English in elementary and high schools, worked in a homeless shelter, and assisted Red Cross volunteers at a local children's hospital.

Opportunities for business internships closer to home have also been made available to our students. Natalie Koontz, a French and business major, did a five-week paid internship with Borden Foods in Columbus, Ohio during the winter break. She



### Kelly Weinfurtner and Elizabeth Kittle teaching French at West Elementary in Athens

worked with O.U. alum Cynthia Lenhart (B.A. French 91; M.A. French 96), who has been with Borden for several years and uses her French to communicate with clients in Quebec.

Student volunteers have been very active in the teaching field. This past year Pam Andrews (B.A. 73; M.A. 79) worked with Lois Vines and Barbara Reichenbach in our department to provide opportunities for O.U. students in French and Spanish to teach at local elementary schools. As part of

the "Kids on Campus" program, college students visit area schools twice a week to introduce the elementary pupils to a foreign language at an early age. The volunteers use their own imagination and language skills to create materials that are appropriate for young children. Kelly Weinfurtner, who taught at West Elementary winter and spring quarters, discovered a whole new world of language learning. Kelly remarked that "teaching at the elementary level was a great experience. It was amazing how quickly the students caught on. I was also surprised as to how much they remembered. It was hard to have them remember everything, because we only met twice a week, but the students retained most of the basic words. It's interesting to see how languages and culture are taught at the lower level. It's all learned by listening."

Several O.U. students have worked as volunteers at the Instituto Moderno Americano, a bilingual school in Mérida which welcomes volunteers who are fluent in English and Spanish. Kevin Cram, a recent participant in our study abroad program in Salzburg, has an internship at a German high school in Cologne, where he will be an English assistant. For the past two years French students have received paid positions as

English-language assistants in France. (See related article on page 10).

The Department of Modern Languages is interested in making contacts to set up internships for students. We have recently proposed a special course number which will enable students to receive academic credit for internships that follow specific guidelines. If any of our alums can offer internships or know of any possibilities for our students to gain practical experience, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

# Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

End of summer greetings from Athens!

We've had an exciting year since we last communicated with you, and you can read about it all in the following pages. We hired three new faculty members, including two in German, all profiled on page 9. We sent more students than ever abroad, and we have begun to place qualified students in internships where they can apply their language skills in a professional context (see pages 1, 5 and 10). Several of our alums have offered to sponsor our students in internships, and we hope that through our alumni network we can expand internship offerings. If any of you could provide a language student such an experience, please contact us with the details.



In addition to new initiatives, the department continued many of its traditions this year including the honor society initiations, the Spring Literary Colloquium, and plays in Spanish and German. We hope you enjoy reading about these activities.

Donations to our Modern Languages Study Abroad Scholarship Fund have been coming in steadily, and we are anxious to start awarding funds to students. The account now holds \$6,700 and only needs another \$8,300 to generate enough interest to make awards. We thank all who have contributed and encourage those of you who haven't to help us send more students abroad. As alumni of our programs in Mexico, Spain, France, Russia, Austria, and Germany, you understand the value of education abroad and the need for all language majors, regardless of their families' economic means, to immerse themselves in the language and culture of another country.

As always, the last page of this publication solicits the latest news from you, and we sincerely hope to hear from you soon.

All the best,

Mary Jane

Mary Jane Kelley, Chair  
Department of Modern Languages

## OUR DEPARTMENT:

### French

Dominique Bardet  
Chris Coski  
Richard Danner (Emeritus)  
Signe Denbow  
Dominique Duvert  
Yolande Helm  
Brigitte Moretti-Coski  
Ruth Nybakken  
Herta Rodina  
Fred Toner  
Lois Vines  
Marie-Claire Wrage (Emerita)  
William Wrage (Emeritus)

### German

Maike Ahrends  
Wiltrud Bald (Emerita)  
Noel Barstad (Emeritus)  
Matthias Bauer  
Carl Carrier (Emeritus)  
Ursula Lawson (Emerita)  
Klaus Plonien  
Annette Steigerwald  
Barry Thomas  
Kristina von Held  
Karin Wright

### Italian

Bartolomeo Martello (Emeritus)  
Molly Morrison  
Robin Wright

### Russian

Vera Belousova  
Karen Evans-Romaine

### Spanish

Harold Blanco  
Kit Brown  
David Burton  
María Candel-Vila  
Miriam Coady  
Grafton Conliffe (Emeritus)  
José Delgado  
Kerry Vaughan  
Thomas Franz  
Nelson Hippolyte  
Mary Jane Kelley  
Emilia Marks  
Jeff Marks  
Abelardo Moncayo-Andrade  
Betsy Partyka  
Jorge Alberto Peréz  
Humberto Peréz-Pancorbo  
Anne Porter  
Barbara Reichenbach  
Vanisa Sellers  
Daniel Torres  
Maureen Weissenrieder  
Josefina Williams

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Phil Richardson (Emeritus)

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## Say There<sup>fi</sup>

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# Study Abroad

## Austria

The students participating in Ohio University's 32nd annual intensive German program in Salzburg, Austria were able to enjoy what the locals were calling the best spring of the last 50 years. The weather contributed royally to the outings to the surrounding lake country (Salzkammergut). Here the 15th-century Gothic altars and the ossuary piled high with the skulls of the dearly departed competed for our attention with the deceptively serene but treacherously deep mountain lakes of St. Wolfgang and Hallstatt.

The students also attended a reception in the mayor's office, at which this year's (retiring) program director, Dr. Barry G. Thomas, was recognized for his contributions to study abroad. Professor Thomas, who has directed 11 programs in Salzburg, presented the mayor with a crystal bowl bearing the seal of Ohio University; in return, Thomas received a glass and pewter beer mug showing the seal of Salzburg. The mayor, Dr. Heinz Schaden, also welcomed the director for 2001, Dr. Kristina von Held.

Although this year's group of nine was smaller than usual ("klein aber fein!"), the value of the experience was in no way diminished. Each individual brings back fond memories, increased language proficiency, and a new understanding of both the Austrian and American cultures. For more information on the program, visit [http://www-as.phy.ohiou.edu/Departments/Mod\\_Lang/abroad/austria.html](http://www-as.phy.ohiou.edu/Departments/Mod_Lang/abroad/austria.html)

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## Mexico

The Mayab Program continues to remain healthy after 21 years in the Yucatan. During Winter Quarter 2000, 47 students studied abroad in Mrida. TAs who accompanied the program this year were Heather McAllister and Jason Rowsey, who both received their MAs in Spanish at the end of Spring Quarter. This was Jason's third time in Mrida. The program web site can be reached from the department's home page or directly at: [http://www-as.phy.ohiou.edu/Departments/Mod\\_Lang/abroad/mexico.html](http://www-as.phy.ohiou.edu/Departments/Mod_Lang/abroad/mexico.html)

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## Germany

Spring quarter 2000, a pilot group of ten OU students attended the new Ohio Leipzig European Center (OLEC) at Leipzig University in eastern Germany. OLEC gives students an opportunity to explore issues related to the new Europe while improving their German language skills at the InterDaF language institute. The pilot curriculum consisted of a seminar on "The New Europe," "European Geography," and "Introduction to European Media." Excursions took students to nearby Dresden and farther afield to Berlin and Prague. For more information on the program, visit <http://www.ohiou.edu/studyabroad/olec/>.

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## Spain

Each quarter of last academic year our Pamplona! program in northern Spain attracted approximately 20 students, some of whom stayed for the entire year. In Pamplona, student-stake classes at the Universidad Pblica de Navarra from both local and OU instructors and each student lives with a Spanish family. Several excursions allow the groups to explore the history and natural beauty of Navarre. A unique component of this program is community service, which places each student in an informal internship in the city. This year students worked in schools, a hospital, and a homeless shelter. For more information and pictures, the Pamplona! web site can be accessed from the department's home page, or you can go directly to: [http://www-as.phy.ohiou.edu/Departments/Mod\\_Lang/abroad/Pamplona!.html](http://www-as.phy.ohiou.edu/Departments/Mod_Lang/abroad/Pamplona!.html).

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## Ecuador

Spanish language students also have the opportunity to travel to Cuenca, Ecuador each spring quarter to study topics related to Latin American Studies. In 1999 and 2000 the program was led by Brad Jokisch, a Latin American geographer. Brad returned to Cuenca for three weeks this summer with a group of high school Spanish teachers on a study program funded by Fulbright. You can read more about the Cuenca program at <http://www.ohiou.edu/studyabroad/latamer/cuenca.html>. If you teach high school and would be interested in participating in such a program, please contact us.

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## France

Since 1967, students of Ohio University have participated in academic programs in Tours, France and this year was no exception. This year's director, Dominique Bardet, was assisted by Linda Glovka, MA French 1999. Highlights shared by this year's group of 31 students included a cooking course offered at the Ecole Albert Bayet. Not only did the students get hands-on experience in French food preparation, but they also got to eat a gourmet meal at the end. On the excursion to Versailles, students were treated to a sound and light show with the palace's spectacular fountains in full function. Advanced students were particularly pleased to study "The Press and Culture in Contemporary France" with Olivier Dufresne. One student commented, "It helped me to comprehend a great deal of the differences between the two cultures I have now been a part of." Visit the Tours web site at [http://www-as.phy.ohiou.edu/Departments/Mod\\_Lang/abroad/tours.htm](http://www-as.phy.ohiou.edu/Departments/Mod_Lang/abroad/tours.htm)

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## Russia

The fourth biannual Ohio University Spring Quarter in Moscow Program took place in spring quarter 2000. Six OU students participated in the program. Program participants studied at the Kitaigorodskaja Center for Foreign Language Instruction on the campus of Moscow State University. They took Russian language classes with Russian faculty from the Kitaigorodskaja Center and courses in Russian literature and culture with Ohio University Assistant Professor of Russian Karen Evans-Romaine. Students lived with families near the Moscow State campus. Excursions in Moscow included visits to the Kremlin, the Tretyakov Gallery, the historically rich Novodevichii Monastery, the beautiful Kuskovo estate, the recently built World War II memorial complex, and the apartment of Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov (1891-1940). Students also travelled outside Moscow: to the ancient monastery town of Suzdal, the estate of Anton Chekhov, the artists' colony at Abramtsevo, and on a three-day tour of St. Petersburg. Students also saw Tchaikovsky's opera "Eugene Onegin" at Moscow's New Opera Theater, as well as two performances of Russia's Bolshoi Ballet at the Bolshoi Theater. They attended a concert of Latvian violinist Gidon Kremer and the Camerata Baltica at the Moscow Conservatory, as well as numerous other concerts and theater performances on their own. Students were in Moscow at an interesting time in Russia's history: they saw the election and inauguration of Russian President Vladimir Putin. It was an exciting program, and we look forward to the next Spring Quarter in Moscow in 2002.

# Faculty News

Lois Vines The French film course I teach each spring has inspired several research projects. My article on Francois Truffaut's L'Histoire d'Anne H. was published in French Review in February 2000. I have a couple more articles submitted and am writing a book, Approaches to Films in French, which I plan to complete during the coming academic year.

Ruth Nybakken This year was a busy one, highlighted by a two-week trip to Paris in late November and December. I continued to teach French language, literature and civilization classes at OU and, during 2000, presented two conference papers: one (on Nathalie Sarraute) at the Twentieth-Century Literature Conference in Louisville, Kentucky and one (on translation in the Foreign-language classroom) at the annual meeting of the Ohio Foreign Language Association in Toledo, Ohio. I particularly enjoyed seeing and talking to former students—many are now seasoned language teachers—at the Toledo Conference in March.

Daniel Torres This has been a very exciting academic year for me! I taught two new graduate courses: Spanish 548: "Imaginos femeninos en Hispanoamerica" and Spanish 603: "Literatura ertica hispanoamericana". In the first course I was able to teach about feminist literary criticism in Spanish America and in the second course I applied most of the theory I studied during my quarter on sabbatical. At the undergraduate level, I revamped once again my Proseminar on Contemporary Spanish American Fiction using a brand new anthology edited by Garganigo et al: HUELLAS DE LAS LITERATURAS HISPANOAMERICANAS as well as a 20th Century classic: CIEN ANOS DE SOLEDAD. I had the privilege to be invited to the 10th Annual Distinguished Lecturer Series at Rutgers University and I presented "Intercorporealidad y marginalidades: el discurso poético colonial y contemporáneo en Hispanoamérica de cara al nuevo milenio." I am currently finishing VERBO Y CARNE: LA LIRICA LESBICA Y HOMOEROTICA EN HISPANOAMERICA, a book-length project on lesbian and gay poetry in Spanish America. I was also invited to lecture at Claremont College in California during their special topic conference, CARIBBEAN THEORIES: CULTURE, IDENTITY, NATION. In this forum I read my poetry and I presented "Thoughts on Tembandumba de la Quimbamba, The Caribbean Queen." As a member of the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry I participated in the IVth Biennial Conference at the University of California, Davis. There I presented "La ertica sacra de Hernando Domínguez Camargo." I wrote the prologue for the complete works of the Puerto Rican poet Mar a Arillaga: YO SOY FILI MELE (Río Piedras: Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1999):1-10. Last academic year, my article "De la utopía poética en GRANDEZA MEXICANA de

Bernardo de Balbuena" was published in Caliope: Journal of the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry 4.1-2 (1998): 86-93. FUSILADO DIOS, a collection of poems a mística will be coming out Fall 2000.

Yolande Helm I first came to Athens and Ohio University in 1997 and have truly enjoyed the two main areas of my work; teaching and research. I had the opportunity to teach courses on Francophone literatures of North Africa, the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa and Quebec. It has been rewarding and challenging to share my experiences and knowledge of these minority literatures with students who are truly inquisitive regarding other cultures. Last year, thanks to a grant from the Ohio University Research Committee, I was able to travel to France in order to interview Malika Mokeddem, a Franco-Algerian woman author. Since then, I have published several articles on her work and chaired a special session at the Modern Language Association Convention in December 99 in Chicago. My book on this author, Malika Mokeddem: envers et contre tout, has been accepted by the L'Harmattan Press in Paris and will be out in the Fall 2000.

Molly Morrison I was pleased to join the department as a tenure-track faculty member in September 1999. (Previous to this, I had been here for two years as a Visiting Professor.) I really enjoy teaching first- and second-year Italian language, as well as various courses on Italian literature (taught in English translation). I developed three new courses under the IILM rubric (International Literatures in translation). It has been very interesting and I've been pleased to have a variety of engaging students enrolled in these courses. One of these classes, entitled "Women of the Italian Middle Ages," was just approved for the Women's Studies Certificate. My research interests focus on two areas: Dante, the famous Italian poet, and medieval Italian women mystics. Last year, I published an article on an Italian holy woman, entitled "Connecting With the God-Man: Angela of Foligno's Sensual Communion and Priestly Identity." The article explores the eucharist as it appears in Angela's writings, and how it relates to her own sensuality. I have recently had an article accepted for publication entitled "Looking at God: Imagery for the Divinity in Dante's Paradiso." This article examines the images Dante uses for God in the last part of the Divine Comedy, the Paradiso, and argues that these images bear the influence of the 5th-century Christian Platonist author known as the Pseudo-Dionysius. Additionally, I've also worked hard on developing a "Certificate in Italian Studies," an interdisciplinary course of study for students which involves various departments in addition to our own. Finally, I am currently working with faculty in the Classics department on a pro-

posed study abroad program in Rome, to be jointly administered by Modern Languages (Italian) and Classics.

Tom Franz As usual, I have been doing a lot of writing. This year I will publish a book on Spanish novelist Juan Valera, and I have begun another one on Unamuno. In December I visited friends in Pamplona and did research in Salamanca. Every few months I have been returning to Wisconsin to visit my dad, who is now almost 92 years old and who always seems to have a new girlfriend at the special home where he lives. If they'd let him, he'd go back to work. Warm weather made this a poor year for skiing, but my family and I still managed a number of nice trips. My son Andy achieved the scouting rank of star scout this year, and I have decided to receive training to be a scoutmaster and, just as when I was young, I am discovering that I cannot learn the required knots and hitches. I have become a member of a local bass fisherman's club, and I spend some weekends at tournaments where I have a good time but never seem to win a prize, making me a very poor representative of my native state. As in other years, I have seen some of my long-time colleagues retire, and, as a confirmed workaholic, I have resolved to stay on the job forever.

Karen Evans-Romaine This spring I have had the pleasure of taking six Ohio University students to Moscow on our biannual study abroad program. Students have been taking classes on the campus of Moscow State University: in language with Russian faculty at the Kitaigorodskaya School for Foreign Language Instruction, and in Russian literature and culture with me. They live with families in apartments not far from Moscow State University. We have enjoyed many aspects of Moscow's cultural life: two ballets at the Bolshoi Theater, a performance of Tchaikovsky's opera "Eugene Onegin" at Moscow's New Opera, and a concert by violinist Gidon Kremer at the Moscow Conservatory. This spring in Moscow has been of significant historical interest as well: students have had the opportunity to witness the presidential elections and inauguration of President Vladimir Putin, as well as the celebrations of the 55th anniversary of the Soviet victory in World War II. Victory Day, May 9, is a holiday of tremendous personal importance to Russians, since the Soviet Union lost 27 million soldiers and civilians to this war, which Russians call the Great Patriotic War. Virtually no family was left untouched by its devastation. I have enjoyed many rewarding hours in Moscow's Russian State (formerly Lenin) Library, gathering material for two music-related projects: one on images of Tchaikovsky in the poetry and prose of several early twentieth-century Russian writers, particularly Boris Pasternak, and one on the role of Heinrich Heine in these writers' literary "conversations" on music. I will spend the summer in Athens

# Faculty News

going through these treasures and writing up my findings on them. Despite Russia's economic difficulties, academic and cultural life in the capital are thriving in a manner inspiring to Americans, most of whom live under much easier conditions: with Moscow's booming book and periodical publications, as well as its abundance of exhibitions, performances, and other cultural activities, students and I face the constant problem of what to choose, an "embarrassment of riches."

Signe Denbow S. D., (A.B. '76, French: O.U.; Ph.D. '88 U. of Mich.) returned to O.U. in 1994 and has been teaching undergraduate French classes. She wears several hats as member of the French faculty, O.U. alumna, and faculty daughter (Carl H. Denbow, Mathematics. Taught 1936-42; 1950-1982) This year, she began teaching a 2nd-year course (FR 211, 212, 213) which is broadcast to 4 regional campuses through interactive television. The class includes computer presentations, internet sites, and video clips

to enhance the traditional classroom. Regional campus students use email to submit homework and get extra help from the prof., who also travels to each campus each quarter to meet students individually and conduct oral interviews. Prior to returning to O.U., she held full-time faculty positions at Western Michigan University, North Dakota State University, and Oklahoma State University, and has published in the areas of second language acquisition, phonetics, teaching culture, and language obsolescence. She served on the board of the Michigan Foreign Language Association, as editor of their annual publication.

Kristina von Held After resurrecting the course "German Drama on Stage" last Fall (see article about the Helmut Springer Show in this edition), I dedicated a lot of my time and energy to heading the search for two new German faculty members. We received 160 applications, and after a round of initial interviews at the MLA Convention, we were able to invite six candidates to visit the cam-

pus in January. We are excited to report that two of them, Maike Ahrends and Klaus Plonien, are joining our program this fall and will replace the much-missed Melanie Archangeli and Carl Carrier. Besides coordinating the second-year German sequence, I taught several new courses, among them two new literature/film courses in the spring. One was the advanced German topics course in which we explored the role of the outsider, the other was a course taught in English and entitled "From Page to Stage and Screen." Furthermore, I presented a paper on the Austrian-Jewish poet Rose Ausländer at a conference on biographical approaches to literature at OSU. My article, "Aus meinem Atem geboren: Bilder weiblicher Schöpfung in der Dichtung Rose Ausländers," is about to be published in the Rose-Ausländer-Jahrbuch in Germany. Last fall, I gave voice recitals at OU and the College of Wooster, featuring music by Handel, Gluck, Brahms, Bernstein, and Wooster composer Peter Mowrey.

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## Science Student Uses Language Skills in Udine, Italy

A common misperception is that sciences and humanities don't mix. Heather Baird, a recent biochemistry major who graduated in June, illustrates how untrue this is. During the summer of 1999, she had the opportunity to use her language skills in Udine, a city in northern Italy. While in Udine, she worked in a laboratory at the University Hospital researching Graves' disease, an autoimmune disorder of the thyroid.

Heather took three quarters of Italian at O.U. before she left. She considers her language preparation a valuable key to her success in the laboratory. In the lab, very few of my co-workers spoke English, so without my knowledge of Italian, it would have been very difficult to function, states Heather. Heather considers her experience as a foreign student in Italy to be life changing. She notes, "I now understand what it is like to live in a culture that is unfamiliar, and have experienced the rewards of learning a new language. I am able to take a global perspective on issues more easily because I experienced Italian beliefs and because I had the opportunity to discuss American beliefs with Europeans."

Since Heather's return to the United States, the research group with whom she works has applied for a patent on the technology that she introduced in Italy. Professor Ambesi, the director of the laboratory in Italy, has visited Ohio University on several occasions and hopes that other O.U. students will come to Udine. Heather adds "I hope to return to Italy to practice and improve my language skills, but for now, I keep in touch with friends over e-mail. Heather will begin work on her Ph.D. in Pharmacology at Case Western University in July."



Heather enjoys a moment with her Italian professor, Molly Morrison

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## Portuguese for Speakers of Spanish

For the first time since it was discontinued during a financial crisis in the early 1970s, Portuguese will be taught in the Department of Modern Languages. The year-long sequence of courses is designed for students who are already proficient in Spanish. Open to both graduate and undergraduate students, the prerequisite for the sequence is Spanish 343 or the equivalent; native speakers of Spanish are encouraged to take the three courses. One goal of the Portuguese sequence is for students to become proficient enough to participate in internships, which will be set up with businesses and English-language schools in Brazil.

Teaching the courses for the academic year 2000-01 will be Mariza Speller, a Brazilian language professor from Uni<sup>o</sup> de Negocios e Administrac<sup>o</sup> in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. The Ohio University Latin American Studies Program has provided scholarships for students from UNA for many years. As part of an exchange agreement, the Brazilian institution is sending a Portuguese instructor to enhance the offerings of the O.U. program. The ties between UNA and O.U. will become closer as more American students become proficient in Portuguese and participate in opportunities in Brazil.

# Spanish Coloquio and Play

## Involve Students, Professors, and Community Members

Spring Quarter tends to be a busy time of year around Gordy Hall and this last one was no exception.

May 2-3 saw our 5th Annual Spring Literary Festival. This year's Coloquio Primavera focused on Chicano literature. Our guests were Dr. Luis DEvila from Indiana University, Francisco Alarcón from The University of California at Davis, Daniel Chacón from The Southwest State University in Minnesota and Ohio University's George Hartley. By way of their written presentations, visits to classes, participation at a round-table discussion and well-attended meals, the distinguished panelists talked insightfully and at length about an array of issues regarding the current state of Chicano literature. The Coloquio Primavera offered plenty of food for thought, especially when one considers that DEvila advanced the pioneer perspective, Alarcón the present's and Chacón the future's. Hartley provided the outside view.

Teatro la Caterna, on the other hand, staged its 6th, theatrical production. *Murmuraciones acerca de la muerte de un juez* (Rumors Regarding the Death of a Judge), by the Chilean playwright Gustavo Meza, ran April 6-9 at the Virginia Hahne Theater in Kantner Hall. A bit on the "who-done-it" genre, the piece tells us the story of a corrupt judge who has been murdered in the small town of Osorno. Four villagers are suspected. The play presents the stories of the four suspects and their particular motivations for killing the judge. Turns out, of course, that the actual assassin was somebody

else. Teatro La Caterna was happy in that the big cast was composed of thirteen undergraduate students, ten graduate students, three members of the Athens community and two professors.



As worried buddies Urbano, Montecinos and Aguilar (Jeff Baird, Trevor Lanhan, Tupac Barahona) look on, town's prankster Quintín Barros (Cristian De Antoni), fakes ailment in order to win "a sorrowful freebie" from "the girls" (Melissa Miecznikowski, Maribel Mæoz, Amy D'Aloise) at the Crystal Palace.

## Jealous Fights and Sexual Identity Crises in German Play The Helmut Springer Show

Cinderella, Snow White, Rapunzel, and Sleeping Beauty have discovered that the tales of the Grimm brothers are no longer the most effective media outlet for them, and so they find themselves on the stage of the Helmut Springer Show (similarities to certain American talk shows are fully intended). To their chagrin, they find out that they are all in love with the same Prince.

Helmut's insightful questions lead to many confrontations and finally allow the Prince to escape from all these women into the arms of the manly Wolf who woos him with an eloquent confession. The pregnant Snow White proposes to Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel falls for the ugly Witch who turns out to be a beautiful man, and even Helmut Springer himself cannot stay out of his guests' affairs after he has heard Cinderella's heart-breaking story.

During the Fall Quarter 1999, the students of German 235: German Drama on Stage wrote and staged their own contemporary version of the well-known fairy tale characters, complete with the appropriate commercials, such as "Castle Cleaner" for the Witch, "Caffeine Coffee" for Sleeping Beauty, and the Prince's "Warrior Condoms," effectively advertised by the flamboyant Trojan Woman. After many revisions and even more rehearsals under the direction of Kristina von Held, Assistant Professor of German, the class presented two performances of The Helmut Springer Show on a studio stage in Kantner Hall to a full house.



The Helmut Springer Cast (from right to left); top row: Jonathan Leal (Helmut), Becky Huffenberger (Snow White), Beth Barker (Cinderella), Tyle Fernandez (Witch), Cindy Bartsch (Sleeping Beauty), Mike Rosenfeldt (Wolf), Katie Simpson (Cinderella); bottom: Nicole Stump (Rapunzel), Jon Goodwill (Prince), Mainz-TA Sigrid Fahrer (Cinderella's Stepmother).

## Language Honoraries

### German

Delta Phi Alpha Celebrates its 42nd Initiation

On February 22, 2000, the members of the National German Honors Society, Delta Phi Alpha (Chapter Delta Tau), gathered to welcome 8 new members. Over 30 alumni/ae and initiate members, Chapter officers, faculty and parents attended the initiation dinner at Baker Center. New student members (with their additional fields of concentration) include:

Nate Saettel (Education), Kimberly Howry (Hearing and Speech), Ben Pearson-Nelson (Sociology), Emily Fritz (Business), Lacy Thomas (Communications), and Angela Hartbarger (Sociology).

The new members were selected on the basis of outstanding academic work and their contributions to the activities of the German program. Four of the six are former participants in the Salzburg program in Austria.

Two honorary members were also welcomed into the society: Jean Thomas was recognized for her enthusiastic contributions to extra-curricular activities; her assistance to German students both in Athens and on the Salzburg study abroad, where her determination to use the language and learn about the culture serves as an inspiration for the sometimes timid undergraduates; and not least of all for the delicious cookies she bakes for German classes.

Joyce Kohan is a longtime assistant dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, where she has been a consistent supporter of study abroad programs. During her long and productive professional relationship with the MLD chairs and study abroad directors she has gone well beyond the requirements of her office.

The chapter was especially busy this year, sponsoring an Oktoberfest in the fall, a Fasching party in the winter, and participating successfully (250 Bratwurst sold!) in the May International Street Fair. Several German movies were also shown during the year.

With the graduation of Cindy Bartsch, Kate Ortman will take over as president in 2000-2001. Under her energetic leadership we look forward to an even more successful year as the new (true) millennium begins.

### Spanish

On June 2, 2000, the OU chapter of Sigma Delta Pi held its Spring Initiation in Gordy 113. Outgoing officers Nate Daniel (Pres.), Nina Fedele (VP), Heather Davis (Sec.) and Megan Aftosmis (Treas.) presided over the ceremony where 10 amantes de la lengua cervantina were initiated. After the ceremony a short reception was held and officers were elected for the school year 2000-01. President elect is Tracy Cramer, Vice-President, Kathy Kingsley; Secretary, Sabrina Hollon; and Treasurer Amanda Schlie. Faculty advisor is Dr. David Burton. The new slate of officers promises a web page in the fall of 2000, so members, stay tuned.

### French

At the Induction Dinner in February, twelve outstanding students in French became members of Phi Sigma Iota. After-dinner entertainment was provided by graduate students Francis Mathieu, Christophe Corbin, Genevieve Ekani, and Mark Olson, who gave brief presentations on the Franche Comté region of France, Corsica, Senegal, and the French islands St. Pierre and Miquelon, located off the coast of Canada.

The Phi Sigma Iota table at the spring International Street Fair was a big success. Visitors at the fair loved the croques, madeleines, and the special t-shirts designed by Hillary Goodson (B.A., Fr. 00). Hillary has designed French t-shirts the past two years for the honor society. The most recent one has Le français, J'approuve! printed in blue, white, and red along with various motifs representing France.

## Scholarship and Award Recipients

### MARY L. DURNIION SCHOLARSHIP

Kathryne Adair  
Nate Maier

### MARY T. NOSS SCHOLARSHIP

Kelly Weinfurtner  
Janelle Seigneur  
Amy Vargas-Tonsi  
Elizabeth Kittle  
Meagan Halliday  
Katie Burin

### GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD NOMINEE:

Outstanding Junior French Major  
Kathryne Adair

### GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD NOMINEE:

Outstanding Graduating Senior in French  
Holly Schoreder

### OUTSTANDING GRADUATING SENIOR

Holly Schroeder in French  
Terri Paulsen in Spanish

### GEORGE/JUNE MATTSON SCHOLARSHIP

Amy Cheuvront  
Laura Whiteman  
Megan Whetherholt  
Amy Leafgren

### MAXINE MCCRORY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Angie Lagrotteria  
Tracy Cramer  
Jocelyn Burlew  
Sabrina Hollon

## Outstanding Teaching Associate

Each year the College of Arts and Sciences gives an award to honor the contributions of graduate students who teach in several departments. In the Department of Modern Languages, most graduate students have classroom responsibilities and do a superb job teaching French and Spanish to beginning-level students. It is always difficult to name one recipient in each language for the award. This year Jonathan Leal in French and Pamela Mar a Gonzalez in Spanish were selected for the Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Associate award in Modern Languages.

# E-Mail Directory



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Web Site: [http://www-as.phy.ohio.edu/Departments/Mod\\_Lang/](http://www-as.phy.ohio.edu/Departments/Mod_Lang/)

Language Resource Center

WEB Site: <http://willow.cats.ohio.edu/~lrc/lab/home.html>

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### Language & Computer Labs:

Jrg Waltje [waltje@ohio.edu](mailto:waltje@ohio.edu)

## Alum NEWS

1950

Audrey Gould Schechter, Spanish, German

I have been searching the internet for anybody in the class of 49, 50, 51. I would love to hear from anybody who might have known me in those days, preferably through email, but I will answer all letters, too.

1953

Richard L. Jeffers, BA, Spanish  
I'm currently teaching Spanish One and Two at Stratford High School in the Spring Branch Independent School District. This is my second year here. I also sponsor the Chess Club and a new club started just this year, the Table Tennis Club. I'm also coaching the table tennis team as our goal is to play other high schools in the Houston area. My plan to obtain my doctorate will continue this summer, hopefully through an exchange program with a university in Spain. My e-mail address is: [rljeffers@teacher.esc4.com](mailto:rljeffers@teacher.esc4.com). I would like to hear from other modern language students who attended OU during the early to mid 50s.

1960

Naomi Joy Miller Penner, BA, French  
M A 1962, Ohio State Romance Linguistics; N Y State Certified Counselor. Taught French, Spanish, Latin Great Neck Secondary Schools. (Finalist, Teacher of the Year American Association of Teachers of

French). Founder-International Tongues for-foreign language magazine-(Medalist Awards). Currently teaching French, Spanish, Etymology (Latin and Greek Roots of English), English to Foreign Born, in adult education and server centers. Also teaching Spanish to hospital employees who treat Hispanic patients. Also teach Ballroom and Latin dance and communication (psychology) courses. Founder (1969) of first N.O.W. chapters in US (member, Veteran Feminists of America). Founder 1980-Coalition of Free Men (Men's liberation). Cable TV Shows-Singles Talk, Men Talk.

1967

Vickie Mosey, Spanish  
After teaching elementary French in Cleveland Public Schools for 31 years, I retired (July 99).

1972

Irene Mailhot Bernard, French  
Professor of French Education at St. Francis Xavier University Nova Scotia, CA. I have been involved in French Education for the past 25 years. Teaching Core French and Immersion Methodology to Bachelor of Education Students. Recently wrote a series of textbooks for Prentice-Hall-Ginn. Acti-Vie an elementary core French series of 24 teaching units for grades 4-6 in Canadian Schools 1998-1999. Gage Publishers will now begin the continuation of this series

from grades 7-9. I will be Series Editor of the next level of text books. The text books are being used across Canada.

1974

John R. Eckelberry, Spanish  
After graduation, I served briefly in the Peace Corps in Guatemala and since joining the Navy I have seen most of the known world. Very little in my college or subsequent professional education influenced me more than my study abroad or foreign language training.

1976

Harry L. Thoman III, Spanish  
Upon graduation, I taught high school Spanish for one year then joined Peace Corps Ecuador 77-79. Returned to U. of S. Carolina and graduated with Master of International Business Studies in 1981. I've worked in international sales in Latin America for last 17 years in the chemical industry. In 1998, I moved to a global international marketing position in OxyChem which I joined in 1984. I married Ana from Ecuador in 1980. We have two children, girl 13 and boy 9.

1981

Scott D. Tingley, BA, Spanish  
My family and I have lived in Rotonda West, Florida since 1994. I met my wife Blanca during the 1979 Winter quarter study abroad

program in Xalapa, Ver. Mexico. Today we run a collection agency. We started Interstate Adjustment Bureau (an Ohio corporation) in 1986. Our company specializes in freight bill collection and transportation receivables management. Our main career though, is a taxi service that we run for two exclusive clients; our daughters Melissa and Caroline. Both girls know a lot of Spanish and are in high school and middle school respectively. We use our Spanish regularly on the job, at home, and with friends around town. Wenn es einen blauen Mond gibt, ben tze ich mein Deutsch. Hope to be at next reunion.

1982

Nancy Serpa Kamphuis, Spanish  
I have been living in the Netherlands since 1992 and Dutch is now my second language. Spanish was my minor at O.U. and I enjoyed study abroad in Jalapa and Mrida, Mxico. Such a long time ago, but "Say There" helps to bring back old memories. I d love to hear from fellow study-abroaders from the Mxico group or from Belize and Cuba. As for my personal news, I still work in the mental health/human services field, am married with a "native Dutch speaker" and have two great sons, Eric (5 1/2) and Kevin (almost 2).

1983

Anita (Meyer) Malchiodi Albedi, MAIA, International Studies  
As a full-time computer software and business high school teacher, there are times when knowledge of French has a positive aspect. More importantly it s been useful to assist in the GeneaNet Project, an international online genealogy database. I translate the user information to expand usage among English Language speakers and host the English Language site at my autumnstar domain. There are between 15,000 and

23,000 accesses a week! Knowledge of French has also helped in my own genealogy research and to build bridges with cousins in France. If you re interested in genealogy, visit <http://www.autumnstar.com/GeneaNet>. I support the Business College and, occasionally, the International Studies Department.

Katherine Dziewatkoski Chirinos, MA, Spanish

I am the lead ESL instructor at a nonprofit learning center in Houston, Texas. I have worked at this center for the past seven years. The center offers GED, English as a Second Language and computer training courses. The center serves a multicultural population. I was recently awarded a scholarship by Textesol to attend a TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Academy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I presented a paper at the Textesol IV Annual Conference in October at the University of Houston Hilton.

1991

Kevin Schwarz, Spanish  
After participating in the study abroad program in Merida, Mexico, 91, I was determined to return to the region and learn more Spanish and Mayan Culture. In 1993, I entered graduate school at Southern Illinois University to study anthropology. In 1995, I did five months archaeological fieldwork in Belize, in a Spanish speaking zone. In 1996-98, I participated in archaeological projects in Guatemala. Each time I have worked in Central America my appreciation of Mayan culture and my knowledge of Spanish has increased. Now I m fluent in Spanish; this has been a learning process that started in Merida. I m studying for my doctorate and hope to do my own fieldwork next year; I ll be negotiating my fieldwork experience in Spanish, it should be fun.

1997

Shellie Baker, BS Journalism/ BA Spanish 1995, MA Latin American Studies 1997  
Shellie completed her two-year Peace Corps Service as a hillside agriculture extensionist in Honduras and returned to the U.S. in January. She will begin/began teaching Spanish at Tulelake High School in northern California in August 2000. She'd love to hear from other OU alumni! Write her at [shelliebaker@yahoo.com](mailto:shelliebaker@yahoo.com).

1998

Michael Hunter, BA'91, BSJ'91, MA'96, MA'98  
Michael is currently a full-time instructor with the Ohio Program of Intensive English (OPIE). He teaches at the Komaki English Teaching Center (KETC) in Komaki, Japan. KETC is a cooperative program between Ohio University and the city of Komaki. Last year, Michael lived in Amman, Jordan as an English Teaching Fellow for the US Department of State. He was responsible for establishing an English for Legal Purposes curriculum at the Judicial Institute of Jordan. Michael sends his greetings to all his friends from the France study abroad 1988 program. If anyone would like to contact him, it would be warmly welcomed. Michael's email is [mhunter@gol.com](mailto:mhunter@gol.com)

1999

Bethany Thissen, Spanish  
I am currently a high school Spanish teacher at Hilliard Davidson High School in Hilliard, Ohio. I am planning a trip to Spain this summer with some of my students. Right now my students are making Piatas to donate to a children s hospital for the holidays.

## New Faculty Profiles

The Department of Modern Languages is pleased to welcome three new tenure-track professors to the teaching faculty.

Klaus Plonien comes to us from Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, where he has taught German language and literature since 1996. Klaus received his PhD from the University of Minnesota for a dissertation entitled "Re-Mapping the World: Travel Literature in Weimar Germany."

Maike Ahrends earned her PhD from the University of Michigan in 1999. Her dissertation, "Kaza gecimek: Having Accidents in Life Identity Constructions between Cultures," reflects her interest in migrant literature in the Federal Republic. Maike spent the 1999-2000 academic year in Freiburg, Germany directing the University of Michigan s academic year abroad.

Chris Coski spent last year teaching French language and literature at Frostburg State University in Maryland. Chris received his PhD from the University of Maryland for his dissertation "Condillac: Man, Metaphysics and Semiotics," in which he examines the philosophy of language in 17th- and 18th-century French writers.



From left to right: Chris Coski, Klaus Plonien and Maike Ahrends

¡GRACIAS!

Merci!

THANK  
YOU!

Grazie!

Danke!

Spasibo!

### DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES 1999-2000 CONTRIBUTORS

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Sue A. Bugansky  
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Laura J. Thomas  
Tim & Danette Tritch  
Lois L. & Robert F. Vines  
Peggy S. Whyte  
Lynn Raker Wurzelbacher

## O.U. Students Teach in French Schools

Five French majors, Kristin Keifer, Heather Blaine, Megan Zunk, Carrie O Connor and Jacob Rice, have worked in France as English-language assistants in schools from the elementary level through high school. The positions are offered through the French Ministry of Education for American citizens under the age of 30 who are graduates or undergraduates majoring in French. The assistants are paid a monthly stipend of 5600FF (about \$930) for teaching English twelve hours a week under the supervision of teachers in the French schools to which they are assigned. Completing the application process is a learning experience in itself and tends to turn away the faint of heart, remarked Lois Vines, who helps students apply for the program.

Each student had a different experience upon arriving in France, but they all agreed that the most difficult challenge at first was finding housing. Although some help was offered locally, it was the student's responsibility to find a suitable place to live, which varied from a small apartment to lodging at the school. The purpose of the language assistant program is for the students in France to hear the English of native speakers and to learn more about cultures where English is spoken. Kristin Keifer, who took a year off from O.U. to teach in France, already had experience working with American children in after-school programs and summer camp. She was very successful in coming up with games, such as Simon Says and Mother May I?, that her pupils in France loved to play. Kristin was delighted to be assigned to an elementary school, her first choice. When she arrived in Dax, France, she learned that she would be teaching in six elementary schools twice a week, some of them located in rural areas. Two days a week she walked six miles because there was no public transportation to the schools. In spite of the physical inconveniences, Kristin developed a close relationship with the children, continued to communicate with them by e-mail during the following academic year, and returned for a visit this past summer. Kristin's experience probably represents the ideal situation the Ministry of Education had in mind when they created the program. Other English-language assistants had problems that ranged from unruly students to hostile or indifferent teachers in the French schools. But in spite of the negative aspects (housing, transportation, and attitudes), the American students found that they learned a great deal during their stay in France. They emphasized the importance of being able to speak French upon arrival and having the self-confidence to deal with the school system and bureaucratic challenges involved in obtaining the necessary documents to work in France. Four of the five students from O.U. had already been on study abroad programs. That experience prepared them for this unique look at French schools from the



Kristin Keifer (B.A. Fr. 00) with her students at the Candresse Elementary School near Dax, France



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Bonjo Gr

Privet!

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SAY THERE

Wie Geht s?

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Kak dela?

Buon

HOLA

