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 MÃ³rida and then was sent to Cancun for a week. Other students in MÃ³rida have worked in 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 Koonz, a French and business major, did a five-week paid internship with Borden Foods in Columbus, Ohio during the winter break. She 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 MÃ³rida 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.

Kelly Weinfurtner and Elizabeth Kittle teaching French at West Elementary in Athens
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
Ohio University Department of Modern Languages
Say There PAGE 3

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

Mexico

The Mayab Program continues to remain healthy after 21 years in the Yucatan. During Winter Quarter 2000, 47 students studied abroad in Mérida. Those 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 Mérida. 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

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.chicou.edu/studyabroad/olec/.

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, students take classes at the Universidad 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

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 Fullbright. You can read more about the Cuenca program at http://www.chicou.edu/studyabroad/latamer/cuenca.html. If you teach high school and would be interested in participating in such a program, please contact us.

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 Gdovka, 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 fountain 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

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 Kitaigorodskiaia Center for Foreign Language Instruction on the campus of Moscow State University. They took Russian language classes with Russian faculty from the Kitaigorodskiaia 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.
Lois Vines  The French film course I teach each spring has inspired several research projects. My article on Francois Truffaut’s J Histoire d’Adèle H. was published in French Review in February 2000. I have a couple more articles submitted and am writing a book on Truffaut’s 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 Nathlie 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 Columbus. 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: “Imaginarios femeninos en Hispanoamérica” and Spanish 603: “Literatura er tica 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 hispanoamericano de cara al nuevo milenio.” I am currently finishing VERBO Y CARNE: LA LIRICALESBICA Y HOMOEROTICA EN HISPANICAMERICA, 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 Tsembanduma de la Quimbamba, The Caribbean Queen.” As a member of the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry I participated in the 4th Biennial Conference at the University of California, Davis. There I presented “La er tica sacra de Hernando Domínguez Camargo.” I wrote the prologue for the complete works of the Puerto Rican poet Mar a Antillaje: YO SOY FILI MELE (R o Piedras: Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1999):1-10. Last academic year, my article “De la utopía poética en GRANDEZA MEXICANA de Bernardo de Balbueva” was published in Califo: Journal of the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry 4.1-2 (1998): 86-93. FUSILADO DOS, a collection of poems a m stica will be coming out Fall 2000.

Volanda 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 Berber-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 Hammerart 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 these new courses under the IML 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 proposed 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 the Russian novelists, works on Russian literature, and I have begun another one on Unamuno. In December I visited friends in Rampla 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 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 scout 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 and collecting knots and hitches. I have become a member of a local bass fishermen’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 annual study abroad program. Students have been taking classes on the campus of Moscow State University; in Language with Russian faculty at the Kitajigorodskaya 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 Henrik Heine in these writers’ literary “conversations” on music. I will spend the summer in Athens.
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 Reserve University in July.

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 Universidade de Negocios e Administração 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 Primaveral focused on Chicano literature. Our guests were Dr. Luis Díaz-Villegas from Indiana University, Francisco Alarcón from The University of California at Davis, Daniel Chávez 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 Primaveral offered plenty of food for thought, especially when one considers that Díaz-Villegas advanced the pioneer perspective, Alarcón the present’s and Chávez the future’s. Hartley provided the outside view.

Teatro la Caterva, 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 Caterva 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.

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.
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, Sahrina 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 Ekana, and Mark Olson, who gave brief presentations on the Franche ComtØ 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 to the fair loved the crŒpes, 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 fran ais, J approuve!” printed in blue, white, and red along with various motifs representing France.

Scholarship and Award Recipients

MARY L. DURNION 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 Schroeder

OUTSTANDING GRADUATING SENIOR
Holly Schroeder in French
Terri Paulsen in Spanish

GEORGE/JUNE MATTSON SCHOLARSHIP
Amy Cheuvront
Laura Whiteman
Megan Whetherholt
Amy Leafgren

MAXINE MCCORRY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Angie Lagrotteria
Tracy Cramer
Jocelyn Burlew
Sahrina 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 González in Spanish were selected for the Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Associate award in Modern Languages.
French:
- Dominique Bardet: bardet@ohio.edu
- Chris Coski: coski@ohio.edu
- Richard Danner: danner@ohio.edu
- Signe Denbow: denbowe@ohio.edu
- Dominique Duvert: duvert@ohio.edu
- Yolanda Helm: helm@ohio.edu
- Ruth Nybakken: nybakken@ohio.edu
- Herta Rodina: rodina@ohio.edu
- Fred Toner: toner@ohio.edu
- Lois Vines: vinesl@ohio.edu
- Marie-Claire Wragge wragge@ohio.edu
- W. William Wragge: wrage@ohio.edu

German:
- Maike Ahrends: ahrends@ohio.edu
- Noel Barstad: barstad@ohio.edu
- Matthieu Bauer: bauer@ohio.edu
- Klaus Plonien: plonien@ohio.edu
- Annette Steinemaldsteiga@ohio.edu
- Barry Thomas: thomasb@ohio.edu
- Kristina von Held: vohneld@ohio.edu
- Karin Wright: wrightk1@ohio.edu

Italian:
- Bartolomeo Barstall: barstall@ohio.edu
- Molly Morrison: morrisoc@ohio.edu
- Robin Wright: wrightr@ohio.edu

Russian:
- Vera Belousova: belousov@ohio.edu
- Karen Evans: evans@rohio.edu

Spanish:
- Harold Blanco: blanco@ohio.edu
- Kit Brown: brownk2@ohio.edu
- David Burton: burton@ohio.edu
- Maria Cardel-Vila: cardel-v@ohio.edu
- Miriam Coady: coady@ohio.edu
- Graffin Cnilh: conilh@ohio.edu
- Jose Delgado: delgado@ohio.edu
- Kerry Vaughan: vaughan@ohio.edu
- Thomas Franz: franz@ohio.edu
- Nelson Hippolyte: hippolyte@ohio.edu
- Mary Jane Kealey: kealey@ohio.edu
- Daniel Marks: marks@ohio.edu
- Jeff Marks: marks@ohio.edu
- Abelardo Moncayo-Andrade: moncayo@ohio.edu
- Bet.Sy Partyka: partyka@ohio.edu
- Jorge Alberto Perez Perez: perez-p@ohio.edu
- Humberto Perez-Pancorbo: pancorbo@ohio.edu
- Anne Porter: porter1@ohio.edu
- Barbara Reichenbach: breichen@eureknet.com
- Vanisa Sellers: sellers@ohio.edu
- Daniel Torres: torres@ohio.edu
- Maureen Weissenrieder: weissenr@ohio.edu
- Josefin Williams: williag2@ohio.edu

Language & Computer Labs:
- J. R. Waltje: waltje@ohio.edu

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. 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
My family and I have lived in Rotation West, Florida since 1944. I met my wife Blanca during the 1979 winter quarter study abroad from grades 7-9. I will be Series Editor of the next level of text books. The text books are being used across Canada.
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.”


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.
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

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

Now that you’ve read all of our news, we would like to hear some of yours! Please fill out the following questionnaire and return it to the Department of Modern Languages, Gordy Hall, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701-2979.

Name: ________________________________________________________________

First          Maiden          Last          Language Degree/ Yr.

Address: ________________________________________________________________

Street          City          State          Zip          Country

E-mail Address: __________________________________________________________

Language(s) Studied At O.U.: _____________________________________________

Study Abroad Program(s): _________________________________________________

Country          Year

UPDATE:

□ Any news about yourself?
□ Are you still using your language skills?
□ Do you know the addresses of any other alumni?
□ Do you have any news that might be of interest for our next issue?

Please list any information below:

Contributions to any of the following funds can be sent to the Ohio University Foundation, HDL Center, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701 with the name of the fund clearly indicated on the check.

- Modern Languages Study Abroad
- German Language Fund
- Spanish Language Fund
- French Language Fund
- Italian Language Fund
- Russian Language Fund
- Language Lab Fund
- Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance Fund
- Cameron-Portales Fund (Mexico study abroad)
- M.A. Serna-Maytorena Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Paul Krauss Memorial Fund (Austria study abroad)

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