David Burton Retires as Director of the Study Abroad Program in Mérida

Students in Spanish have had the opportunity to study in Mexico with a program directed by a faculty member in the Department of Modern Languages since 1967. For fifteen years the program took place in Jalapa, Veracruz on the east coast of Mexico. In 1980 the first winter-quarter program was held in Mérida, Yucatán with the spring and summer programs continuing in Jalapa for another four years. The longest-serving director of all the Mexico programs is David Burton, who was in charge of the Mérida winter program from 1990 to 2012. During that period, over 1,000 students had the good fortune of experiencing Mexican culture with Dr. Burton as their mentor.

Many participants have expressed their appreciation for his guidance. Sarah West, a three-time participant in the OU program who lived in Mérida after graduation for several years sent her gratitude: “The experiences and guidance that Dr. Burton offered me as a student, intern, and Graduate Assistant in Mérida were beyond life-changing. I acquired linguistic and cultural fluency that have led to my research interests as a doctoral candidate in Spanish at the University of Illinois.”

Jay Rowsey recently described his experience in retrospect: “It is hard to believe that Dr. Burton, after spending 22 consecutive winter quarters abroad, has retired as director of the Programa Mayab in Mérida. For many students, studying in Mexico was the first time they left the comforts of home and the borders of the United States. Dr. Burton challenged us to step out of our comfort zones and experience a new, exciting, and vibrant culture. It is a great testament that so many parents felt comfortable sending their most precious cargo with him. Great planning and a keen attention to detail were all required to make the program such an outstanding success. The excursions we took, the home stays that kept us constantly improving our language skills, the birthday celebrations, and the careful selection of instructors were all managed with great finesse. As a three-time participant in the study abroad program, I can confidently say that no one could have done a better or more professional job. My time in Mérida changed my life in many ways. Not only was I able to learn about another culture while improving my language skills, I also formed important friendships. One special relationship was with Dr. Burton. He taught me how to challenge myself academically, always to look for new learning opportunities, and to be a compassionate human being. Although I graduated from the Spanish M.A. program 12 years ago, I remain in contact with Dr. Burton to this day and consider him a friend and confidant. From all of the former students in Mérida, I’d like to say ¡Mil gracias!”

Daniel Torres will direct the program spring semester 2013. If you would like to share your memories of the Mérida program, just send your comments to thomasb@ohio.edu and they will be posted on our department web site.
Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to another edition of Say There. We spent the year working on new policies and procedures so that we can transition in semesters after many decades of quarters. The process was called Q2S and involved all of us rethinking our courses, entering them into the new system called OCEAN, creating new outcomes, and generally putting a facelift on our majors, minors and certificates. A wonderful and enlightening exercise that we hope to never ever have to do again!!! We really will offer classes at 7:30am, and there really will be students in them. Bleary-eyed, but present, nevertheless. We are trying to imagine how it will be to teach in the proposed illogical schedule. The next Say There will let you know how we did and how we are adjusting.

For now, this volume of Say There will update you on the great accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff. As always, the DML is front and center with teaching awards, scholarships, research, study abroad and outreach. We have been updating the web and hope you will take some time to look at our current page, http://modlang.ohio.edu, as well as scroll down and view “Older entries” to see everything we did last year.

Our new sections dedicated to scholarly activities of our faculty and students continue to grow as we add the various activities and recognition the DML receives. Our new dean, Bob Frank, is reviewing all of the departments’ websites, and I think we can be proud of the DML as it continues to be a top award-winning department in the College of Arts & Sciences and in the University. This year Herta Rodina was awarded the CAS Dean’s Outstanding Teacher Award, Barb Reichenbach received a Special Recognition Award for advising, and Emilia Alonso was awarded a Presidential Teacher Award. Just recently both Muriel Gallego and Herta Rodina were selected as Charles J. Ping Institute Teaching Fellows for 2012-13. In addition, Marcelo Ramos received the University’s outstanding TA award for his teaching of Portuguese.

Last year the budget remained static, thank goodness, and we are now able to welcome Joanna Mitchell in Spanish, Christopher White in Italian, and Mila Shevchenko in Russian for 2012-13.

We have revamped all of our study abroad programs for the semester format, and are now facing the challenge of students being able to afford the costs of 14-week programs. Last year we had very successful programs in: Austria, Ecuador, France, Italy, Mexico, Russia and Spain.

As always, we hope to hear from you as you read our news on line and in Say There. Come visit us in Gordy Hall, too. We love to see you.

Many thanks to all of you who keep in touch and support the DML and all that we do.

Sincerely,

Betsy Partyka
Austria (Salzburg: Director Nikhil Sathe, Assistant Andrea Herzog)

This was our first in which classes were held in the university’s brand new, ultramodern Uni-Park building. While our instructors enjoyed the full range of technological capacities in all classrooms, our students enjoyed the spectacular views from the rooftop terrace and café. The twelve participants in this year’s program made great progress in their language and cultural skills as they explored Salzburg and traveled throughout central Europe. They developed a number of lasting friendships with their conversation partners from Salzburg and enjoyed group excursions to Munich, Berlin, and Vienna, as well as to various sites in Salzburg. Highlights from this program included having a guided tour of the Bundestag in Berlin, watching a great performance of Ödön von Horváth’s Geschichten aus dem Wiener Wald after completing a the text in the literature course, having even beginner level students view and competently discuss Christian Petzold’s award winning film Barbara, and having two of our students participate on a relay team in the Salzburg marathon. For pictures, please visit the program website at: http://www.ohio.edu/people/sathe/sbg12.

Ecuador (Cuenca: Director Emilie Walker)

This Spring, eight students took part in the “language and Culture in Ecuador” program. I think the success of the program was determined by the enthusiasm and curiosity of the students, and the inclusive and positive group dynamics. There were several program highlights, including a trip to a mangrove forest, a visit to an animal sanctuary in the Amazon, a visit to an organic farm, a shamanic ceremony in Saraguro and a volunteer project at a local nursery school. Students also experienced major cultural festivities, including the Catholic Holy Week and Cuenca’s founder’s day. This group was also distinguished by their musical curiosity and creativity. We had three ukuleles and one guitar on the trip and the students rehearsed for and performed at one of the local shopping centers in Cuenca. The students were most enthusiastic about their Spanish grammar class and a class with Francisco, on Cañari beliefs. Overall, the program was transformative for the students and in large part this is thanks to CEDEI and Wallis Grout-Brown, the enthusiastic and beloved program coordinator for our group and the coordination and effort of all of the administration here and in Cuenca as well as the academic staff in Ecuador.

France (Avignon: Director Christophe Corbin, Assistant Jared McCathren)

This spring quarter, our seventh in Avignon, was filled with many new discoveries as well as some happy “retrouvailles.” Our first night in Avignon we enjoyed a group dinner at the restaurant Le Zinzolin on the historic cobblestone rue des Teinturiers, where many students tried such French specialties as “magret de canard” for the first time and witnessed a Provençal carnival parade. The following morning the fourteen participants met their host families as they packed up their bags and moved in to what would become their new “homes” for the next eleven weeks. This year’s first excursion included a trip to the chateau of Les Baux-de-Provence, wine tasting in the Rhone valley, and a visit to the “Carrières de Lumières,” a fantastic site where the walls of a defunct bauxite quarry have been transformed in the “canvases” for projections of the works Gaugin and Van Gogh. Next, we took overnight trip to Cassis and Marseille for hiking and sightseeing, and during our final excursion we explored the Marché Provençal at Uzès and canoed down the Gardon River to the Pont du Gard Roman aqueduct. Students taking the course on literary and cinematic representations of the French Resistance had the chance to meet with former WW II Resistance fighters and question them about their motivations and feelings surrounding their participation in the Resistance movement (two had recently celebrated their 90th and 94th birthdays). For the first time the student published a blog, highlighting cultural interactions and historical discoveries in and around Provence. See www.ouinavignon2012.wordpress.com

Italy (Florence: Director Molly Morrison)

17 participants studied 8 weeks in the historical district of Florence, Italy. They take an intensive Italian language and culture course, and a literature course on Dante. Included as a vital part of their program are various in-town excursions to museums and significant historical and cultural sights. Additionally, they have out of town excursions to Venice, Rome, San Gimignano, Cinque Terre, Pisa, and Siena.
Russia (Moscow: Director Vera Belousova)

This year I had a group of seven students. As always, they stayed with Russian host families, which everybody seemed to enjoy. This is a unique opportunity to learn about Russian life firsthand and also a great language practice. Our students have to start talking Russian right upon our arrival. The students had language classes with Moscow instructors. I taught them Russian history and literature in Russian. We had weekly excursions to many beautiful and interesting landmarks in and around Moscow. We also made two longer trips: a trip to the ancient Russian cities Vladimir and Suzdal and a four day trip to St. Petersburg. In the beginning of the fall semester, when I met my “Muscovites” again, many of them asked if there was any chance of finding jobs in Russia. I considered those questions as a compliment to our program!

Mexico (Directors David Burton & Daniel Torres)

Programa Mayab celebrated three landmarks during Winter Quarter 2012: the thirty-second consecutive year of the program there, the twenty-second (and last) program directed by Dr. Burton. Forty-one undergraduates participated. Dr. Torres co-directed along with TAs Carolyn Crowner and Cherita King. Four students held internships: Anna Gebhardt and Clark Dilullo worked with children and young people through the DIF; Michaela Meany with Megamediia; Hayley Roberts with the Centro Educativo Renacimiento. Hayley invited fifteen OU students to participate in an successful conversation exchange with students in grades 7-9 at the Renacimiento. Michaela was part of a team that produced a book on Izamal, even appearing in the pages of the ‘Diario de Yucatan’ and at the Yucatan Book Fair. All had positive and rewarding experiences. Dr. Torres presented Joaquin Bestard’s latest novel at the UADY and at the Yucatan Book Fair. Excursions included: the caves at Loltun and Uxmal; Ek Balam, the cenote at Ik Kil and Chichen; the bio-reserve at Celestun. Among the highlights for Dr. B. were a luncheon given for him by the host families at a local restaurant, an article and pictures in the ‘Diario’, and a very special ‘despedida’ with highly emotional remembrances by Cherita, the host families, and Dr. Torres.

Spain (Toledo: Director Winter, Spring, Summer Nelson Hippolyte)

Toledo was a unique experience during the Academic Year 2011-2012! A total of 50 students had the opportunity of discovering the city of three cultures (Christian, Muslim and Jewish), visiting iconic monuments such as the Cathedral of Saint Mary of Toledo-13th century), the Synagogue of Transito, and Mosque- oratory El Cristo de la Luz-built in 999. all the students (15 winter, 18 spring, 17 summer) attend classes at the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, and live with host families in order to have a direct experience with the customs, food and beliefs of the Spaniards. In addition to the regular three one-day excursions to Madrid, Segova, Arauzay and Escorial, this year the groups visited the controversial Monument El Valle de los Caídos to learn about the dictator Francisco Franco and the suffering of thousands of Spaniards. The spring group experienced the feast of Corpus Christi on June 8 during which the streets are decorated with flags, flowers and tents honoring the Great Monstrance made with eighteen kilograms of 18 karat gold and 183 kilograms of silver. The summer group witnessed the Euro Cup 2012, and celebrated the newest championship with hundreds of youngsters at the Toledo bullring. All the participants wrote journals and articles for our web page “Qué Guay” - “It’s Cool”- that will be available soon on the Modern Language and the Education Abroad web pages. This project gives the students the opportunity to express their thoughts and anecdotes, and to share them with all incoming travelers.
The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Language, Culture, and Study Abroad:
What good will that do me?

Linda Stucky Holden (BA French & Spanish ’70; France/Spain, ’68–’69)
I took part in OU’s Academic Year Abroad program, spending time in Tours, France, & Madrid, Spain. That experience was the acme of my undergrad experience, and continues to pay off even today. Not only do I continue to build bridges with my students by speaking French and Spanish with them, but with my M.A. in linguistics, I’m able to much more deftly explain to my students how language works. Living in the Loire valley, visiting the chateaus & the grottos, learning history from a European perspective...it was all fantastic. Then studying Spanish history and art history and culture left a lasting impression on me.

Kathy Hotter Hightower (Salzburg ’72-73)
I was one of the non-Ohio students in the 1973 Salzburg program (University of Virginia). Since then, I’ve moved a lot, but somehow Germany and Austria often played a part in my life. With my undergrad degree in German, I entered the Army as a Second Lieutenant and asked to be stationed in Germany, where I met my husband. With another move to Germany in 1992, I started workshops for military spouses, which have taken me all over Germany and Europe, Japan and Korea along with the United States. My German still comes in handy when we see German friends. Randi (Topping Simon, Salzburg ’73) and I reconnected recently. We had a great time going through our photo albums from Salzburg. That was such a great year!

James Hoppes (BA German ’95; Salzburg ’93)
My months in Salzburg (’93) with Dr. Barstad were by far the best of my college career. That quarter made me realize how much I wanted to be able to speak the German language well enough to live and function in a German speaking country. After a year as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant (’96), I spent a year in Rostock and then worked with the Fulbright Kommission in Bonn as the alumni coordinator. The head of our organization, Walter Isaacsen, wrote an extensive biography on Albert Einstein, and I had the opportunity to help translate some 400 recently discovered letters by Einstein. So a German major from Ohio University served as a translator for an international best seller! It is something I am pretty proud of, and, once again, I have the German faculty and OU to thank.

Jim Billings (BA Sociology ’91; Salzburg ’90)
The past 22 years have been eventful as I lived in NYC, then the suburbs of Boston, and now in rural Amherst, Virginia. I travelled back to Germany in 2003 to serve as translator and driver for my uncle during his genealogical tour of the Mosel river region and town of Traben-Trarbach. Thankfully, not many folks knew English in that area and I was pleased and proud to have used so much of my Deutsch!

Mara Borges, MA Sp ’06 received her PhD at the University of Tennessee. Her Dissertation is: "Reformulando espacios, estereotipos y discursos: las narrativas femeninas de la violencia en la literatura hispanoamericana contemporánea.” Congratulations to Mara!

D. Paul Zito, BA German/Political Science ’83
Last year I started as VP of International Development for the Regional Growth Partnership, a privately-funded economic development agency covering the 17 NW Ohio counties. I have known RGP for many years and have worked with many European companies and exporters in the region. Being able to speak French and German has helped me with marketing and negotiating in Europe and with Europeans. OU’s language and study abroad programs (Salzburg’82, ’83, ’84) gave me a rich exposure to cross-cultural issues and broadened my knowledge of international politics and history. These “soft” skills have often given me an edge in international sales and marketing.

Erin Fritz Bush, BA Communcation/German minor ‘97
I am still teaching at Shanahan Middle School. Next year I will have over 50 students taking level one, which is a school record (maybe even a district record)! I am thrilled but hoping to still hang on to my part-time status! Emmy is 7 and Jack is 5 and I love being involved with their schools and activities as well. I finished my masters in gifted education from Ashland in May.

James Risen, BA Fr ’70: Jacqueline Bolin, Brenda Adams, Rene and Ann Sterlin, Ruth Nybacken are some of the educators I vividly recall. I still speak very fluent French, go there as often as possible, just returned from a week in Villefranche and am an active member of l’Alliance Francaise in Columbus. My time in Tours was transformational.
Stella Feichtinger Beech, BA International Studies/German '95: In April 2011 Stella and husband Mark welcomed Scarlett Rae into their family; Scarlett looks a lot like her mother.

Jim Michnowicz (MA Sp ’98): I was recently promoted to tenured Associate Professor of Spanish Linguistics at North Carolina State University, where I teach courses in Hispanic linguistics and direct the Project on Spanish in Raleigh-Durham and the Corpus del español de Raleigh-Durham. My research continues to focus on the Spanish of Yucatan, Mexico, that I first fell in love with on my OU study abroad trip. Thanks, and I hope everyone is having a smooth fall SEMESTER(!).

Un saludo muy cordial,
Jim

Brian Bush, MA Sp ’10: I'm just writing to say hi and wish you all well! I'm still with the same company doing the business development thing in Mexico and things are going great. I've learned so much in the past 2.5 years and I just wanted to say thanks again for being such great, challenging professors. The next time I'm in Athens I'll be sure to try and look you up.

Rob Lewis, BA German '81: Made a lot more trips this year, but not to any German speaking lands....closest was Oslo Norway in June (cool place). Also went to China (4 times), Korea, Australia (twice), New Zealand, Brazil (3 times).

More News from Alums
Melania Lavric, French M.A. 2010 is teaching at the Fay School, an independent day and boarding school in Southborough, Massachusetts. She teaches four classes of beginning and intermediate French to 7th, 8th, and 9th graders with a variety of language levels. Her students read Le Petit Prince and created a video project based on the story by Saint-Exupéry.

Adam Hart, French MA, 2011 was hired at The O’Neal School in North Carolina to teach French at the high school level. The O’Neal School, founded in 1971, is a private college-preparatory school in Southern Pines, located between Charlotte and Fayetteville. One hundred percent of O’Neal students graduate and are accepted at universities each year; Adam met a senior who has been accepted at Ohio University.

The Broader Study Abroad Community
Many students who participate in SA do not go on to become official majors and minors, but they are still part of the Modern Languages study abroad community. This occasional column will report on their post-OU career and life developments as we hear from them.

Annie Major Urbanek, Education (Music Therapy): Salzburg 2000
Things in the Urbanek house are going well! We welcomed our newest addition, Samuel Major Urbanek, in late August. He's adjusting well to having two older brothers who smother him with hugs and kisses. During my last performance appraisal at work I was asked to comment on how I had encountered cultural differences in the workplace and how I was able to adapt to the situations: we have many Amish patients at the hospital, and I was able to sing several lullabies in German for the families - which they seemed to understand - and I had to pat myself on the back for that. I really do miss the language.

Katie van Fossen, Business: Salzburg ’98
I'm still single and having fun. I know it's a shame that I don't use my German at work but I do use it whenever I go over to Germany, which is usually every other year.

Julie Dickman Chase (Business: Salzburg 2000)
Thanks for filling me in on the 2009 reunion plans. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend because I now live in the Middle East. I moved to Qatar this past summer to run the leadership development program for Texas A&M University's campus in Doha. It was my experience in Salzburg that inspired me to find opportunities to work overseas. :) (Note—Julie recently returned from three years in Quatar and now lives in Durham, NC, with her husband and son).

In Memoriam
BOLT, Gaines Richard, age 64, passed away on September 3, 2012. Gaines graduated Summa Cum Laude from Ohio University in 1971 with a BA and an MA in French. He pursued post-graduate studies at L'Universite' De Tours - L'Institut deTouraine, Tours, France. Gaines taught French at Northmont Senior High School for 29 years, and according to his fellow alum, James Risen, “he made a tremendous contribution to appreciating all that is French and many people went on to learn French and become teachers of the French language because of him”.

In Memoriam
Celebrated Again with Bagpipes

Graduating seniors, M.A. recipients, and their families were guests at the Department of Modern Languages Graduation Luncheon before the afternoon Commencement Ceremony. The event was held on the first floor of Gordy Hall with a delicious buffet set up in classroom 113 and tables arranged in the halls to accommodate over 150 guests. Faculty members in French, German, Russian, Spanish, and Italian contributed homemade dishes as a gift to honor our graduates and their parents. A very large cake, decorated in green and white with the word “congratulations” written in all the languages, provided a festive dessert. The happy event offered the opportunity for parents to meet faculty and for professors to congratulate the students on their achievements and to express appreciation for their parents’ support.

Dean of Arts & Sciences Robert Frank stopped by to greet our guests and wish them all the best as they begin life beyond Ohio University. Our department is the only one in the College to offer a luncheon on Graduation Saturday, when all the local restaurants are filled to capacity. Our guests enjoy the event knowing that they can walk to the Convocation Center without rushing or searching for a place to park.

The students are informed ahead of time to gather at the entrance to Gordy Hall when the luncheon comes to an end. A faculty member goes to each table to give a secret signal for the graduates to excuse themselves for a moment. They quickly line up behind our wonderful bagpiper, Dr. Adam King, and march back into the hallway to the sound of joyful music, much to the surprise of the parents and creating happy memories for all.

Signe Denbow’s French 2120 Class

During Fall Semester 2012 Modern Languages students donated 1850 food items to the Third Annual Battle of the Tongues Food Drive. Signe Denbow’s 9:40 French 2120 class won first place with a donation of 15.9 items PER STUDENT! Mary Jane Kelley’s 12:55 Spanish 2120 came in second place, with 15.7 items per student. Because the margin was so narrow, we rewarded both classes for their dedication to helping our community: bagels and donuts for the morning class, and the afternoon class enjoyed a pizza party generously sponsored by Little Italy Pizza in The Plains. This year all the food banks, large and small, had the same message: “Donations are down significantly, our shelves are almost empty, we will take anything you can donate!!” in a thank-you letter from the Athens County Food Pantry, Food Committee Member Betsy Knies mentions that more than 1000 people come to the Food Pantry every month when they are in need of emergency food: “The need for food continues to increase and support such as yours helps keep us going.”

Mary Jane Kelley’s Spanish 2120 Class
Three Faculty Members Receive OU Awards
(l-r Herta Rodina, Barb Reichenbach, Emilia Sameño)

Spanish Professor Emilia Alonso Sameno was the co-recipient of the Ohio University Presidential Teacher Award for 2012. Created in 2000 by President Emeritus Robert Glidden to honor faculty members for their excellence in teaching inside and outside the classroom, the award is for three years during which the recipients hold the title “Presidential Teacher.” Professor Sameno has enriched the learning experience of many students who have studied in Spain under her direction.

Associate Professor of French Herta Rodina was the co-recipient of The Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award for 2012. Her innovative use of social networking tools has contributed to student learning through communication with their peers and with students in Francophone countries. In class, she encourages every student’s participation. One student remarked: “It is obvious she enjoys teaching. She makes us think with the questions she asks concerning the texts we are reading.”

Spanish Instructor Barbara Reichenbach was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Undergraduate Advising Award. She mentors all students, both undergraduates and graduates, who have an interest in combining their language education with teaching in the public schools. Her accomplishments include teaching pedagogical courses for language majors, placing student teachers, observing them in the classroom, and serving as a liaison with the College of Education. As one of her students commented, “she is a student advocate and an outstanding role model for all teacher candidates.”

Fred Toner: I was honored this past year to be named a Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes académiques by the French government. I remain active in AATF and serve as Region V Representative (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia). I was on the editorial board for the AATF conference proceedings, which are now available online to AATF members. I also served on the AATF scholarship committee and am a member of the Commission on Cultural Competence. I presented a paper focused on environmental issues in the 2012 French elections at the AATF convention in Chicago and co-presented with two colleagues, Johann Le Guelte and Amanda Catron, at the OFLA conference in Columbus. I will complete my first year as review editor for society and culture with the French Review in March.

-- Congratulations to Yolande Helm, who was promoted to Professor of Modern Languages.

--Daniel Torres: My critical edition on Don Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora’s poetry was published in Barcelona by Paso de Barca Press. A book of essays on Joaquín Bestard’s works that I co-edited is also in print. A series of book reviews on new Puerto Rican authors appeared in digital journals as well as in Colonial Latin American Review. I continue to teach courses on Colonial Latin American Literature, as well as a course on the introduction to literary genres. I still serve on the Board of Directors of the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry.

Tom Franz: This past summer Emilia Alonso Sameño and I delivered a paper in Madrid on 1920s avant-garde poet Isaac del Vando Villar. I also went on to meet with professors in Valladolid and to do research at the Casa Museo Unamuno in Salamanca. I am teaching an undergraduate seminar on internationally best-selling Spanish author Carlos Ruiz Zafón.


IN MEMORIAM

Douglas Hinkle, who taught Spanish at Ohio University from 1967-1993, died December 6, 2011. In addition to teaching the usual range of courses, Professor Hinkle developed a unique and popular course of “Street Spanish for the Social Work Professions”. He was named “Outstanding Professor of Modern Languages”, and as an accomplished artist applied his skills as a sketch artist for the Athens police force. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Virginia, Hinkle received the “Caballero, Order of the Condor of the Andes” award from Bolivia for his work with the US Information Service.

Contributions in memory of Professor Hinkle may be made to the Spanish Department (see page 11 for details)
Awards and Scholarships

Department of Modern Languages
Alum Wins State Honor

Sharon Dunfee was awarded the Ohio Foreign Language Association Outstanding High School Teacher Award. She earned her B.A. in Spanish and French in 1983 and her M.A. in Spanish in 1991 at Ohio University. After teaching for fifteen years at Alexander High School, Sharon continued her career at Athens High School for thirteen years. In the nomination for the award Sharon is described as “an inspirational, conscientious, and outstanding teacher for her students and for the college language professors who have enjoyed having her as a student and colleague.” Her involvement in two research projects was instrumental in their development and successful implementation resulting in publications in *Hispania*, the journal of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. She helped organize “Shadow Day” for area high school foreign language students who visited the Ohio University campus. Sharon has kept abreast of many resources and advances in language teaching by attending conferences, workshops, and seminars in addition to spending time abroad. Her nominator remarked that “Sharon radiates enthusiasm and commitment toward Spanish and French languages and cultures. She is a fantastic teacher, a wonderful colleague and a source of inspiration for everyone who crosses her path.”

Mary L. Durnion Scholarship
Danielle Fultz    James Schrickel

Mary T. Noss Scholarship
Juliane Accurso   Megan Gilfert
Amelia Byko      Steve Perkins
Rachel Couch     Darian Pinkstine
Amie Davis       Olga Sormaz
Colleen Ferguson

Study Abroad in France Scholarship
Kristina Carson   Andrea Dubell
Kyle Jones

Wilkinson Outstanding Junior Award
Amanda Brown     Kyle Jones
Amie Davis       Camisha Vigil

Wilkinson Outstanding Seniors Award
Jenna Garchar   Rachel Grimm

Outstanding Teaching Associate in French
Amanda Catron

OU Students Win Prestigious Teaching/Research Awards Abroad

French Government English Teaching Assistantships in France
Sakinah Abdul-Karim (Lille)
Catherine Caldwell (Lyon)
Jenna Garchar (Montpellier)
Rachel Grimm (Montpellier)
Kyle Gustafson (Rouen)
Elizabeth Tippett (Rennes)

Do you have news you would like to share with us?
Go to the following website to send us an update.
(Link)

We enjoy hearing what our graduates have been doing!
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