

# Say There

Modern Languages Alumni Newsletter

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FALL QUARTER 1987 ISSUE 14

## NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Alumni,

This issue of Say There is dedicated to the memory of Professor Mary T. Noss, who died several months ago at the age of 101.

Dr. Noss taught in our department for forty-two years, from 1914 until her retirement in 1956. For many years afterward she continued to be active, and she remained keenly interested in the life of the university. Although she had ended her long career more than a decade before I joined the OU faculty in September, 1967, I was fortunate to be among the many who hold fond memories of receptions and piano concerts at her home on Elmwood Place. (She was an accomplished pianist.)

Some years ago she established the Mary T. Noss Scholarship, given to a student from France studying at Ohio University or a student from OU studying in France; if no student meets either criterion, the award may be given to a deserving French major. If you would like to donate to this fund, please make your contribution to the Ohio University Fund, specifying that it is for the Mary T. Noss Scholarship (College of Arts and Sciences).

If you are ever in Athens, I hope you will have time to visit your friends in the department.



Richard Danner  
Professor and Chair

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

Noel Barstad presented a paper, "Die Welt in neuer Sicht heute: Aufgaben der gegenwärtigen Gebserforschung" (The tasks and challenges of current Gebser Scholarship), at the Eighth International Jean-Gebser-Symposium in Schaffhausen, Switzerland in May. He was also re-elected to a second four-year term as Vice-President of the International Jean Gebser Society, Schaffhausen.

In June, he gave an invited lecture on "Das Verhältnis von Kunst und Wissenschaft im Werk Jean Gebsters" (The interrelationship of the arts and the natural sciences in the philosophy of Jean Gebser) at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf (Hochschule für bildende Künste) in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Richard Danner's article "Les Vautours et les pigeons" and Book VII of the Fables was published in Volume 14, Number 26 of Papers on French Seventeenth Century Literature (1987).

He has presented papers at four professional conferences this year: "Articulating the Foreign Language Curriculum," at the Spring Methodology Workshop on Foreign Language Teaching at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, in April; in May, at the Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Cincinnati, he presented "The Problem of Identity in Modern Drama: Sam Shepard and the French Absurdist Idiom,"; in October, at the 12th Annual Colloquium on Literature

and Film at West Virginia University, he moderated a session on "The Playwright and the Filmmaker" and presented a paper on "Images of the American Dream in Film and Drama: Woody Allen and Sam Shepard"; and at Penn State in November, at the 9th Annual Conference of the Association for Integrative Studies, he presented a paper on "Teaching an Interdisciplinary Course on Irony."

Danner has been appointed to a five-year term as chair of the Department of Modern Languages.

Patricia Lytle, who earned a BA in French from OU in 1982, is on a one-year appointment as an Instructor of French.

Pat was a graduate student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, from 1982 to 1986.

Phil Richardson (M.A. '63) and Sharon Guinn Scinicariello (M.A. '73) presented a workshop, "Foreign Language Television: Matching Objectives, Programs and Activities," and served on a panel, "Designing a Language Lab for the Computer Age," at the ACTFL conference in Atlanta, GA.

Herta Rodina holds a tenure-track appointment as an Assistant Professor of French.

She recently completed her PhD in French at Harvard University; she wrote her dissertation on "Spatial Design in The Novels of Julien Gracq" (advisor: Jules Brody).

Henry Silver (Fr) is now on early retirement and will be teaching only one quarter per year.

### Outstanding Graduates

The Department of Modern Languages selected the following students as Outstanding Graduating Seniors in the Class of 1987:

French: Maureen Rogers  
Spanish: Paula Olds

### Selective Guide to Colleges

For the first time this October, Ohio University was chosen to be included in one of the most prestigious guidebooks to colleges and universities, The Selective Guide to Colleges.

Edward B. Fiske, education editor of the New York Times and author of the book, recommends only 300 of the nation's more than 3200 four-year institutions as "the best and most interesting of America's universities."

The entry on Ohio University begins, "Ohio University is not your run-of-the-mill public institution. If only there were ivy on the walls, it could easily be mistaken for a small, private school nestled in the classic college town of Athens..." We've always thought that about Ohio University. Isn't it nice to know that someone else does too?

Best of all, Mr. Fiske's review of Ohio University noted that foreign languages were among students' favorite programs and that study abroad was considered an integral part of many students' experience at the University.

### Study Abroad

Ironically, the budget for the three study abroad programs was cut from \$35,000 to \$25,000; this in the face of a declining dollar may result in our having to put a surcharge on the program fees for the first time.

If you are concerned about the future of study abroad please feel free to write the department

to express your support for the continued funding of these programs.

### OUTREACH PROJECT OFFERS LINK WITH MEXICO

Spanish teachers from Ohio and English teachers from Mexico City met on the Athens campus this summer to participate in a workshop entitled "Creative Communication for Teachers and Students of Spanish: Effective Use of Media Technology."

Funded by a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, the project was directed by Lois Vines, associate professor in the Modern Languages Department, and Barbara Reichenbach, Spanish teacher at Nelsonville-York High School. During the immersion weekend, the participants spoke only Spanish while experimenting with the use of Mexican television and homemade videos as a means of establishing communication links between students of Spanish in Ohio and students of English in Mexico.

After the immersion weekend (June 19-21), the teachers from Mexico spent five days in the homes of their Ohio colleagues, where they were able to perfect their English and learn more about American culture.

Eighteen Ohio teachers participated, including OU graduates Jeff Browne, Molly Gleissner, Sharon (McFadden) Kochis, Brenda Lemon, Debbie Lowe, and Diane Snow.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### 1964

Jerry Griffith (Sp,Fr) lives in McArthur, Ohio and is director of the Vinton Co. Department of Human Services.

### 1966

Sieglinde (Schmidt) Warren (Ger) of Poland, Ohio teaches German at Canfield High School where she is also chair of the foreign language department.

### 1967

Claudia Vester-Hawthorne (Fr,Ger) is a major in the US Army and in March of this year was assigned for three years to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium. SHAPE is located near Casteau, Belgium. Before being assigned this tour of duty, Major Hawthorne was with the US Army Forces Command near Atlanta, Georgia.

Pat (DePompei) Little (Sp,Rus) lives in Richardson, Texas and is a showroom manager with the William Little Association, World Trade Center.

Kathryn M. Stahl (Fr,Sp) lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan and works as a linguist.

### 1968

Helen (Sayrs) Hurley (Fr,Ital) is an audiovisual librarian at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and lives in Milford, Ohio.

### 1969

Phyllis (Wooley) Hoffman (Fr,Sp) is an ESL resource teacher in the Dublin Local School district. She received her MA degree in TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages) from Ohio State University in August

1986. In December 1986, representing Dublin schools, she visited several Japanese schools on the Ohio Educators to Japan tour, sponsored by Honda of America. Phyllis and husband John (BS, mechanical engineering, OU '65) are the parents of three children. They reside in Worthington, Ohio.

Catherine (Miller) Barber (Fr,Ger,Rus) for the past eight years has been an attorney and partner in the law firm of Carretta, Cartwright, Barber and Cornish in Fairborn, Ohio. The firm specializes in criminal defense and domestic relations. Catherine is married to a CPA and they have four children. In the last four years they have traveled extensively to Europe, Egypt and the Orient.

### 1970

Linda (Robb) Ransdell (Rus) is living in Lexington, Kentucky and is the mother of three children ages 12, 10 and 6.

Paula (Hoeck) Prindle (Fr) is a school librarian in Circleville, Ohio. She and her husband David whom she married in August 1986, live in Orient.

Suzanne (Dickson) Germond (Ger) is an artist with art shows in numerous galleries in NE and NYC. In addition to her art career she is a part-time mathematics instructor at an area high school. Suzanne lives in Barrington, Rhode Island.

### 1971

Marty (Smith) Hubble (Sp) lives in Arlington, Texas where she teaches Spanish at Arlington High School.

1976

Sheryl Somers (Sp) lives in Atlanta, Georgia and works in advertising sales.

1977

Lee Kravitz (Fr) is an attorney with Weltman, Weinberg & Associates in Cleveland, and lives in Solon, Ohio.

Becky Slisher (Ger) is presently teaching German at Newark High School. Becky has been very active in the Ohio AATG and is its representative to the executive board of the Ohio Foreign Language Association.

1979

Joseph Pettigrew (Fr,Sp,Ger) teaches English as a second language at Boston University and Bunker Hill Community College in Boston. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Jenny Samaan (Fr,MA '79) is Director of International Student Services at the University of Houston-Downtown. She is in charge of a number of cross-cultural activities aimed at fostering an environment of global understanding.

1984

Emily Martin (Sp) is a part-time Spanish instructor at Bowling Green State University and has been working toward her master's in Spanish.

Philip Gordon (Fr,Sp) is living in Fairfax, Virginia and is working toward a PhD in European studies at The Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced Int'l Studies (SAIS), Washington, D.C.

HELP LOCATE THE FOLLOWING:

Ann Jeffrey (Rus '69)  
Wilhelmina Schmoll (Ger '69)



Please be sure to contact us with any news not reported here in "SAY THERE" or with any news incorrectly or incompletely reported. We'd be more than happy to help reunite alums by disclosing addresses of anyone who has corresponded with us. Also, if you haven't sent us an ALUM REPORT, please do so and tell us what you're doing. We'd all love to hear from you!

**KEEP IN TOUCH!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
                    LAST                    FIRST                    MAIDEN                    DEGREE (Year)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Street                    City                    State                    Zip Code

LANGUAGE(S) STUDIED AT OU \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

IS YOUR JOB IN ANY WAY LANGUAGE RELATED? IF SO, WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT IN MORE DETAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE STUDY-ABROAD PROGRAMS WHILE YOU WERE AT OU? WHERE AND WHEN? \_\_\_\_\_

If you know the addresses of any other alums or if you know any news that might be of interest to our alums, please give that information in the space below and we will publish it in the next issue:

We have extra copies of all the earlier issues of "SAY THERE." If you would like to receive a copy of ones you missed, just ask for them:

Issue 1 (Jan-Feb '76) - Issue 2 (Mar-Apr '76) - Issue 3 (Fall '76) - Issue 4 (Fall '77) - Issue 5 (Fall '78) - Issue 6 (Fall '79) - Issue 7 (Fall '80) - Issue 8 (Fall '81) - Issue 9 (Fall '82) - Issue 10 (Fall '83) - Issue 11 (Fall '84) - Issue 12 (Fall '85) - Issue 13 (Fall '86)

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD BE RETURNED TO: C. P. RICHARDSON  
LANGUAGE LABORATORY  
ELLIS HALL-OHIO UNIVERSITY  
ATHENS, OH 45701-2979

Would you like information on:

Language Camp \_\_\_\_\_

Language Fair \_\_\_\_\_