Barry Thomas and Karen Evans-Romaine Win Top Awards

Two faculty members in our department have been honored with outstanding awards this past year. Barry Thomas was presented the Distinguished Career Award in March at the Ohio Foreign Language Association annual conference. Karen Evans-Romaine received the Jeanette Grasselli Brown Faculty Teaching Award at the OU College of Arts and Sciences reception in May.

Barry Thomas, Professor of German

Barry took early retirement in November and will continue teaching German one quarter each year. Throughout his career he has made many significant contributions to foreign language education at the local, state, and national levels. As chair of our department for ten years, he initiated projects that have had long-term effects on language teaching. Under his direction, our faculty became involved in the national movement of Academic Alliances in Foreign Languages and Literatures, which bring together high school and college teachers. A strong supporter of study abroad, Barry directed eleven programs to Austria while constantly struggling to keep them funded. At the state level, he served as president of the Ohio Foreign Language Association (OFLA) and was a member of several OFLA committees. A leader in the American Association of Teachers of German at the state level, Barry was the liaison person for this organization on the OFLA Executive Board and helped organize activities for German teachers throughout the state. At the national level, he has given numerous presentations and workshops dealing with vital issues in language education. Endowed with a wonderful sense of humor, he carries out his activities with competence and compassion. Upon receiving the special plaque, Barry remarked: “I am honored to receive this award, but I also must recognize the many outstanding colleagues who have supported me during the past thirty-five years, and of course the many students who have made life so interesting and without whom there could have been no career, distinguished or otherwise.” Barry Thomas would be pleased to receive e-mails from former students. The department is proud of Barry for his achievements that have been recognized by the Distinguished Career Award.

Karen Evans-Romaine came to Ohio University to teach Russian in 1996 after serving for three years as a Fulbright Representative in Moscow and completing her Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan. With her colleague in Russian, David Mayberry, she organized the department’s study abroad program in Moscow and has directed it every other year since 1998. Karen has been an outstanding teacher of a language that many students find difficult to learn. Her enthusiasm, knowledge, and teaching techniques have encouraged students to pursue the study of Russian language, literature, and culture. Karen’s research focuses on German-Russian literary connections and the interrelationship of music and text in Russian Modernist literature. She and Fred Toner created an innovative Tier III course on the relationships between music and literature, which they have taught for the past two years. Her activities with students beyond the classroom played an important role in her selection for this prestigious award. Karen expressed her appreciation for the recognition: “I am delighted to have received the Jeanette Grasselli Brown Faculty Teaching Award. It was a pleasant surprise! I think the award is really meant for the entire department: in the Modern Languages Department we have a culture which encourages teaching that is challenging, exciting, and rewarding for our students and for us. I feel lucky to have such wonderful colleagues and students. They stimulate me to do my very best.” The department congratulates Karen on her outstanding teaching.

Jeanette Grasselli Brown endowed the teaching awards in Arts and Sciences to honor the professors she had at OU as an undergraduate chemistry major, a field of study that led to her thirty-eight-year research career with Standard Oil (later BP), where she became the highest-ranking female employee. She is now chair of the Ohio Board of Regents.

Karen Evans-Romaine, Assistant Professor of Russian
Dear Friends,

As I write this, my last letter to you as department chair, my mind keeps returning to images of the 1998 reunion, at which I met so many of you. That event was a wonderful way for me, early in my term as chair, to connect with alumni, who play a truly critical role in maintaining our department’s vitality. By means of generous financial contributions, sponsoring internships for our students, and serving as a resource for future planning, you impact the lives of OU Modern Languages students in an important way. I thank you most sincerely for all of your support during the last five years. I hope you continue to follow the progress of our programs through this newsletter, and it will be great to see you at our fall 2003 reunion.

The last five years have brought many changes to our department, the move to Gould Hall and many new colleagues in all languages. I can only hope that the department has become a better place both to teach and study during those years. By the time you read this I will have left the chair’s office and returned full-time to my research during a fall-quarter Faculty Fellowship leave. I ask you to join me in wishing my successor, Associate Professor of French Fred Toner, a smooth transition from full-time professor to the varied challenges of chairing a large and important department such as ours.

All the best,

Mary Jane

Our Department

French
Chris Kolb
Michael Gonner (Emeritus)
Signe Dentow
Dorothy Otter
Isabell Heinrich
Ruth Schoben
Hans Schoben
Lela Knez
Lisel Vines
Marc Vines
William Vines (Emeritus)
Spanish
Harold Brandt
Bert Brown
David Burton
Marian Cordero-Velez
Melian Cosady
Griffin Corfield (Emeritus)
Jose Dols-Gonzalez
Patricia Hipolite
Artur Hughes
Ivy Jones
Julia Jones
Judith Morris
Joanna Mitchell
Marie Malek-Avocado-Aravi
Bettina Partecke
Humberto Reina-Franco
Ann Porter
Bettina Richter-Beth
Graham Tomes
Kerry Young
Miquel Varela
Jawclus Williams
Keith Woodall

Our Language Resource Center

Eduardo Alvarado

Blond Vines

Say There

Wendy D. Kolz

A special thanks to Barry Thomas and Rich Banner for proofreading.

William Owena (Classical), Molly Morrison (Modern Languages), Lynne Lancaster and Tom Carpenter (Classics).
Maike Andreais was pleased to join the delegation to Argentina for a two-week program in September 1999. I taught second- and third-year German classes and one course using The Lime Trees (Nagel's Forschungen zu Literaturen in Translation). I designed new, creative assignments, which heightened the interest of my German classes. For my ILM students, I developed a course focusing on SS-100: The Final Solution, and Postwar German Literature, Film, and Architecture. In both classes, my students had been a rewarding experience for me. I am also very excited about direct- ing my M.A. student’s dissertation in the Spring 2002. My research primarily focused on the relationship between German and American culture. In the Fall 2000, I presented a paper (and moderated a panel) at the annual GSA Conference (German Studies Association) in Houston, Texas. My paper investigated lin- guistic hybridity in texts by Emilie S. Ozdemar, a Turkish-born novelist written in Germany. I submitted an article on this topic, which was published in the next issue of Texts on texts by Turkish-German women writers.

Chris Coski My first year at OU was an eventful one. I completed an article entitled “Condillac’s Modernization of National Language Theory: Identical Propositions and a Newsonian Linguistics” which has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the journal Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Period. I also began investigating the non-cognitive linguistic structure supported by Condillac from the rationalist thinkers of Portet- ter, Bentham, and Stuart Mill, and that support the concept of the Bildungs- büro, SPAN 546, 343 and 232. But those laughter matured as quickly as the graduate program plate. That one features all the good, Willyon Hall so generously provides, Not a single one is empty, except for a little pile. It was not a happy moment. Luckily, criti- sis was resolved two days later. The plate of Jambon-Bourbonnais had been replaced so huge some have begged me to submit some of the to the recycling program. The pile on Balco de damas (this year’s La Catra) effort just got smaller. Likewise the one for the Jambon-Bourbonnais. The one on an anthology and another one on a movie。“It’s all for the best,” I just got telling that I already know where to put them. So, as you can see, plates have become a way of life, an aesthetic and political commodity. “Keep on list- ening, I say. Now, if only I can find the comput- er!”

Karen Evers-Romaine The 2000-2001 acade- mic year has been a rewarding one for me. An article on my article entitled “Philosophical Identities: The Role of the ‘Heine’ in a book Cold Fusion: Aspects of the German Cultural Presence in Russian Literature” (in Under the Bergahn Books, 2000). Professor Barlow has invited me to participate in the book’s contributors for a symposium on German- Russian Cultural Relations at the University of Illinois in November. In addition, Karen and I were invited to the Athens Film Festival in Athens, Greece. We attended 17 men members at last February’s induction dinner, and we parti- cipated at the faculty and student Council Street Fair — our care were in such a course we are looking for (The Fair ran until 6.00). It was a great success thanks to the students who volunteered to participate. I also had the good fortune to be indoctrinated as an honorary member of Alpha Lambda Delta, The Fairfield University Academic Honor Society (rather appropriate I suppose, since 2000-2001 was my first full year at the College of Liberal Arts at OU). I was delighted to teach two new graduate courses in the spring, including an upper-division Renaissance Poetry, the other on “Being a Philosopher in the Age of Enlightenment.” In particular, I am working on, with responsibility, albeit behind one of my own grad students (oh, the humanity), in a class University’s study abroad program. We had a wonderful group of 36 students — both honors and members of the Honors College — that traveled to Spain, and several other University of Oregon.

John Delgado Have a window since moving to Grody. Love it. Window faces Russian facade of the hotel, but I need to get used to the noise of the street at night. Have wondered about possible “cultural differences” between being a tourist or being the Guest’s house guest. Can always use the space. Office has a most amazing. Sufficient space. Big enough to have a meeting on a table or a rail. I mean, how can one not like this little “cultural difference.” Everywhere one turns, there’s a pile, a pro- gram. They grow as if fueled by Miracle Gro. I could really use a landscape architect. First like ungodly, egetable children that the landscape architect has control in immediate attention. Last pile on the floor? theater books, articles and notes for talks. Class is not even over yet. The most interesting hour was tonight. SPAN 448, 343 and 232. But those laughter matured as quickly as the graduate program plate. That one features all the good, Willyon Hall so generously provides, Not a single one is empty, except for a little pile. It was not a happy moment. Luckily, criti- sis was resolved two days later. The plate of Jambon-Bourbonnais had been replaced so huge some have begged me to submit some of the to the recycling program. The pile on Balco de damas (this year’s La Catra) effort just got smaller. Likewise the one for the Jambon-Bourbonnais. The one on an anthology and another one on a movie。“It’s all for the best,” I just got telling that I already know where to put them. So, as you can see, plates have become a way of life, an aesthetic and political commodity. “Keep on list- ening, I say. Now, if only I can find the comput- er!”

Tom Franz I had many satisfying experi- ences this year — not the least were the other people aided me in having such an enjoyable time. The people on the Internet who provided me with helpful and supportive procedures for my job in both Madrid and Boulder. I added the department’s positions in the new undergraduate and graduate catalogues, modernized procedures for deleting old students’ courses and added new courses. With the encourage- ment of Mary Jane, I started teaching a new SPAN 365 based on important social issues in contemporary Spain. A fastfood group of eleven of us was added to the SPAN 365 course (on Hispanic sociolinguistic issues). I also presented two conference papers (one on language experi- ences in the Spanish American War and one on (Spanish and English conse- nants) with Danny Motes (Psychology) at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. I am currently revising a couple of articles which would be ready for resubmission in early fall.

Molly Morrison This has been a rewarding year for me. I continue to enjoy teaching first-year Spanish, and I have had the opportunity to teach in English (Italian literature in English translation), I designed another new course under my new title of “From Sordid to Sweet: The Brightening of the New World” and one on American Idioms. Thanks to the assistance of some of my collec- leagues in the department, I was able to suc- cessfully develop a new Certificate in Italian Studies. This interdisciplinary project was submitted to the department head, and the Certificate was approved by the university. The Certificate is focused on five courses: Hispanic, Italian and Spanish, and various departments in addition to our own. The certificate was approved by the OU Student Affairs Committee. I also worked on my first that the department will offer. I will work on developing a new Spanish course in music and art, study, continuing to earn a salary, and putting up more with the messes that I am familiar with.

Yolande Hahn This year was the greatest since I arrived in 1997. I got tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor. My book on Mieke deKok, which is just being pub- lished by L’Harmattan press in Paris. My next project is a book on Tineke Netelenbos. Unfortunately, my colleague Tineke Mokkendem, I continue to enjoy teaching at all levels, especially my 300 and 450 level classes. I have just returned from my annual trip to Paris where I will undertake the leadership of a study abroad program in France for a group of Hispanic American people. A subscription journal that is of interest to me is “Iberian Academic Honor Society (rather appropriate I suppose, since 2000-2001 was my first full year at the College of Liberal Arts at OU). I was delighted to teach two new graduate courses in the spring, including an upper-division Renaissance Poetry, the other on “Being a Philosopher in the Age of Enlightenment.” In particular, I am working on, with responsibility, albeit behind one of my own grad students (oh, the humanity), in a class

Emelie Alonso Marks My husband, Jeff Marks, and I spent the 1999-2000 academic year in Parralona, Spain, studying the University of Oregon's study abroad program. We had a wonderful group of 36 students — both honors and members of the Honors College — that traveled to Spain, and several other University of Oregon.
Another Spring Quarter can only mean another round of fun

Literary Event in Spanish Brings Experts to Campus

The sixth Annual Spring Literary Festival was held May 16-18 on the OU campus. This year's Coloquio Primaveral, held in conjunction with the Latin American Studies' McKay Costa Conference, focused on gender and sexuality in Latin America. Our guests were Dr. David William Foster from Arizona State University, Luzma Umpierre, an independent scholar and writer, Ana Mariella Bacigalupa from Rutgers University, Roger Lancaster from George Mason University, and Ohio University's Daniel Torres. 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 gender and representation in Latin America. This year's interdisciplinary colloquium also featured a two-week Prelude of films which included "Danzon."

"Como agua para chocolate," and "Fresa y Chocolate." Various clips shown during the sessions inspired some lively dialogue among the participants.

Students and Faculty Present Play in Spanish

Teatro la Caterva staged its seventh theatrical production, Baño de damas (Ladies' Room), by the Venezuelan playwright Rodolfo Santana, ran April 6-8 at the Virginia Hahne Theater in Kantner Hall. The piece, set inside a bar's bathroom, deals with ten women and their particular stories and problems with the men in their lives. Issues such as domestic violence, an unwanted pregnancy, drug abuse, an ill husband, gubernatorial corruption and lesbian desires are mixed together in true tragicomic fashion. This year's cast of Teatro la Caterva was composed of seven undergraduate students, four graduate students, two members of the Athens community and one professor. Some hot reviews of the play done by students of Spanish are forthcoming in the next publication of Digamel, the student-written departmental newsletter.

Language Honoraries

Phi Sigma Iota

At the induction dinner in February, seventeen outstanding students in French became members of Phi Sigma Iota. After-dinner entertainment was provided by a number of graduate students (including Sylvain Colombani, Franck Dalmas, and Christophe Corbin, who led Psi in a reviving rendition of "Chevaliers de la table ronde.") The Phi Sigma Iota table at the spring International Street Fair was also a big success. The French honorary society sold crape, as well as T-shirts designed by graduate student Hillary Goodson, bearing the slogan: "Je français, c'est chouette!" T-shirts are still available, by the way, $10 each. Just contact Chris Cook.

Hillary Goodson, former president of Phi Sigma Iota and now Teaching Associate in French, displays the two T-shirts she designed.

Delta Phi Alpha

At the annual induction dinner in February 2001, the members of the National German Honors Society, Delta Phi Alpha (Chapter Delta Tau), welcomed 10 new members. Several alumni, parents, and all the German faculty members attended the dinner at Baker Center. Outgoing officers Kate Ortmann (President), Angela Hartbarger (Secretary), and Nathan Sappelfier (Treasurer) presided over the ceremony, and alumna Brandiette Stell Sappel gave a brief presentation about her experience as an au-pair in Bonn, Germany during the past year.

The new members are last year's Salzburg program participants Vincent Barratt, Allison Cayce, Joseph Hiland, and Leslie Hine; incoming first-year students Christy Goonovskiy and Katie Simpson; and graduating seniors Charles Ford and Un Kyung No. Two honorary members were also welcomed into the society: Vivkie Bell-Beier, who has lived in Austria for several years and is a regular at the German Stammtisch, and Matthias Bauer, former Mainz teaching assistant, who returned to teach for the department for two more years and who was a beloved and enthusiastic teacher.

Spanish

During the Academic Year 2000-2001, the OU Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, under the able leadership of President Tracy Cramer, held two initiations. In November, 2000 ten students were initiated and in May, 2001 twenty-"amantes de la lengua castellana" were initiated. In May, the following officers were elected: Tricia Zelaya (President), Jill Battaglia (Vice President), Nicole Bufe (Secretary), and Leslie Dorr (Treasurer).

For Russian Club news, please see page 10

Scholarship and Award Recipients

MARY L. DURNION SCHOLARSHIP
Nate Maier
Sarah Zimmerman

LASH & LEETE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Michelle Leeve
Kelly O'Reilly
Amanda Planisek
Liesel Ramsey

MARY T. NOSS SCHOLARSHIP
Elizabeth Kittles
Elisabeth Rattine
Amy Vargas-Tonsi
Kelly Weinertner

GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD
Outstanding Junior French Major
Nate Maier
Amy Vargas-Tonsi

GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD
Outstanding Graduating Senior in French
Sue Malesevic

OUTSTANDING GRADUATING SENIOR IN FRENCH
Sue Malesevic

OUTSTANDING GRADUATING SENIOR IN SPANISH
Tracy Cramer

OUTSTANDING GRADUATING SENIOR IN GERMAN
Angela Rose Hartbarger

MAXINE MCCRORY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Patricia Piery
Amanda Schlie

Graduate Awards

OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSOCIATE IN FRENCH
Christophe Corbin

OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSOCIATE IN SPANISH
Amy D'Aloise
Fred Toner, Associate Professor of French, was appointed chair of the department by Leslie Fleming, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, after being nominated by the department.

Fred earned his Ph.D. in French at the University of Kansas in 1989. His co-authored intermediate French textbook will be available next year, "Les Contextes de l'écriture (Heinle & Heinle)" came out in 1982. Fred has also published a number of articles, including multiculturism, French culture, critical thinking, and teaching writing. In 1994, Fred received an innovative teaching award from the University of Texas at Arlington, named the Jeanne Wells Award for Innovative Teaching.

As chair of the Arts & Sciences Study Abroad Committee, Fred authored a document urging the Dean to give more support (including consideration in tenure decisions) to those who lead study abroad programs. In the department, Fred has been involved in advising, research, including graduate, advisory, and peer evaluation committees. He also contributes his expertise to the University Committee on TA Training and Orientation.

Fred Toner, New Chair for Department of Modern Languages

Fred Toner's strong background in teaching, research, service, and support is a reflection of his scope and capabilities as well as his talents on the new challenge of department chair. After moving into the chair position this fall, Fred remarked: "I feel fortunate to work with a department that already has an excellent reputation." Most of our teachers have been recognized at the college and university levels, our research has been published and awarded articles and books with the most prestigious journals and presses, and our studies abroad programs are the envy of other universities.

Fred's long involvement with the department has enriched the teaching skills of both graduate and undergraduate students in the department. Fred was the first to teach a French course by microwave, connecting students on campus with students abroad. In 1996, he was named the Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

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New Farfel Scholarship

Our department is pleased to announce the Ursula Feer Farfel Scholarship in Modern Languages, which will be awarded to an outstanding incoming first-year student who will major in French, German, Russian, or Spanish. The need-based scholarship will provide four years of instate tuition. We are very grateful to Dr. Gilbert Farfel and his wife Ursula Feer Farfel, a 1956 Ohio University graduate, for their generosity. Guidelines and the application form for the Farfel Scholarship can be downloaded from the following web site: http://www-asp.phy.ohiou.edu/Departments/Mod_Lang/scholarships.html

Russian Club Activities

This year the Ohio University Russian Club, Slavis, organized some exciting activities that brought together OU students from Russia and American students of Russian language and culture.

Fall quarter Sliava sponsored a Russian-American picnic at Strood's Run. Students cooked Russian shish kebabs ("shashlik") and brought Russian salads and music to enjoy on a beautiful October afternoon.

In the winter the club held an annual Borsch Bash. Over 60 people came to sample authentic Russian dishes, all cooked by club members. This year we had a special treat: the Ohio State University Russian Choir, Rusalka, performed Russian folk songs and dances at the dinner. By the end of the evening they had the audience on their feet, dancing a Russian round dance!

In May the Russian Club participated in the International Street Fair with a booth featuring Russian souvenirs for sale by an area Russian shop, maps and postcards of Russia, and even Russian chess players eager to challenge Athens chess fans to a friendly game.

Also in May, Russian Club members were guests of the Society for Creative Anachronism; together they studied medieval Russian films by watching part of Sergei Eisenstein's film "Alexander Nevsky." They also learned Slavic and East European folk dances from club faculty advisor, Karen Evans-Romaine.

It has been a successful year for Sliava, and we look forward to more exciting events next year.

Members of the Russian Club, Slavis, preparing dinner for the annual Borsch Bash. From left, Laura Hunt, Ken O'Dell, and Betsy Havila.

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-Porteus Fund (Mexico study abroad)
M.A. Serna-Maytorena Memorial Scholarship Fund
Paul Krause Memorial Fund (Austria study abroad)

You may request back issues of "Say There" by calling (740) 593-2749 or e-mail kaaz@ohio.edu

Ohio University
Department of Modern Languages
Say There
Barry Thomas and Karen Evans-Romaine
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Karen Evans-Romaine, Assistant Professor of Russian