

Say There



OHIO
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College of Arts and Sciences

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Bicentennial Reunion: Double the Fun!

Reunions are fun! On Saturday, September 27, from mid-day until midnight, Gordy Hall rang with laughter, animated conversation, and music. During the afternoon, as alumni gathered at our open house, Department of Modern Languages faculty experienced the remarkable professional reward of reconnecting with graduates of our programs. We heard many success stories and felt the sincere nostalgia of individuals who associate adventure, joy, and friendship with the time they spent as language students at Ohio University.

We were especially honored this year by the presence of Jorge and Chloe Pacheco, José Salazar, and James Callaghan of the Mérida, Yucatán Centro de Idiomas del Sureste, which has housed our study abroad program in Mexico for 25 years.

Although officially guests of the department, these four seemed more like hosts as returning alumni expressed gratitude and shared warm memories with them.

The reception room filled shortly after five o'clock as more than 70 alumni and faculty prepared to head off to Nelson Commons for dinner. After a colorful banquet, Colleen Dillon and Sheila Miller-Erazo delighted the audience with traditional songs from the Hispanic world, after which Fred Toner, department chair and illustrious emcee, recognized various of our guests for such distinguishing feats as driving here from Chicago without a single speeding ticket (C. J. Ford and Doug Logan), returning as alumni having graduated in 2003 (Francesca

Mignosa and Sara DiFeo), and participating in three of our study abroad programs (Travis Baker).

After dinner, we discovered that it doesn't matter if you can't remember the words to "Stop in the Name of Love," "I Did It My Way," or "I Will Survive": the

Karaoke machine remembers for you! Almost everyone in attendance belted out at least one of the 150 songs available in our Modern Languages Karaoke collection. We also tapped into Daniel Torres and Connie Perdreau's Latin music collections, which brought the crowd to its feet on the dance floor.

Other highlights of the evening included Rob Lewis's discovery of a set of headphones circa 1975 in the Language

Resource Center, Barry Thomas and Phil Richardson's struggle to tap the mini-keg (how many advanced degrees does it take...?), Todd Fry's newly found eyebrow talents, Rich Danner's Karaoke rendition of "American Pie," and Jeff Browne's award for returning artist from an ensemble performance at the last reunion.

A video of after-dinner party highlights, shot and edited by Jörg Waltje, can be viewed at <http://lrc-web.modlang.ohiou.edu/waltje/reunion.html>. We hope it communicates the spirited unity we felt that day as people who have shared the thrill of study abroad and language's potential to open new worlds.



Evening festivities got off to a good start with Daniel Torres and Marda Rose dancing the Merengue.

Letter from the Chair

Greetings from Ohio University and the Department of Modern Languages!

This bicentennial year of Ohio University is the ideal time to look back at our history, take stock of the present, and look forward to the future. Barry Thomas has made our reflection on the past a more enjoyable experience by writing the bicentennial history of the department. This history traces the various metamorphoses of the department from the earliest years of the university when students took French lessons "during their leisure hours" from the one instructor, "a Gentleman lately come from Paris," to the vibrant corps of five languages and over 60 instructors that make up the department today.



This past year has provided many reasons to celebrate the present department. Our reputation as a department of excellent teachers continues to grow. David Burton received the Jeannette Grasselli Brown award for excellence in teaching. This makes the third year in a row that a member of our faculty has been selected for this award. David's work with the study abroad program in Mérida, Mexico was honored on the front page of a recent *Outlook On-Line* publication, and the co-director of that program, Daniel Torres, was featured on the front page of the *Post* for his teaching.

Our students are also winning awards. Two of our German students received Fulbright awards this past year in a national competition. A Spanish major won the prestigious National Security Education Program award to conduct research in Latin America, again competing with the best students in the country. These students, along with the other graduating seniors in our department and their families, were honored at our second annual Graduation Luncheon last June. Once again, the faculty members in the department cooked an assortment of international foods to thank the students for their hard work.

One of the highlights of this past year for me was a visit to Salzburg for the annual meeting of the O.U. European Alumni Association, which was hosted by our study abroad program. I enjoyed meeting the members of this association who were impressive by their warmth and by their professional successes. During my visit, I was fortunate enough to witness the award ceremony organized by the Office of the Mayor of Salzburg to honor Barry Thomas and his work as liaison between the city of Salzburg and Ohio University. I also got to meet many of the on-site hosts for our study abroad program and spend time with the contingent from Athens. I returned home with heightened admiration for our directors and students, who, with our on-site coordinators, combine to make all of our study abroad programs a richly rewarding and, in many cases, a life-changing experience.

Stories of "life-changing experiences" were commonplace at two other events of significance for our department. One of our graduates was honored at this year's College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony. Philip Gordon ('84), prolific author and a Fellow at the Brookings Institution, celebrated his "life-changing" participation in the O.U. study abroad program in Tours in his acceptance speech. Bill and Marie-Claire Wrage, who directed that program, were in attendance. The theme of transformation was continued this fall in countless conversations at the Department of Modern Languages and Study Abroad reunion. What a pleasure to see former students, past colleagues, and present friends!

These are only a few of the activities that marked the last year, and next year promises to be equally active and rewarding. Despite the reductions in the university budget, the department was awarded a tenure-track position in German and we will be interviewing candidates this December. This good news is in large part due to the excellent work of our under-staffed and over-achieving German section. The same can be said for our colleagues in French, Italian, Russian, and Spanish, as well. How can we not be optimistic as we begin our third century? Please visit the department and see first-hand what we are accomplishing.

All Best Wishes,

Fred Toner, Chair

Study Abroad

Salzburg, Austria (Director, Klaus Plonien, assisted by Tori Rohl)

Nineteen students participated in this year's Spring Quarter in Salzburg, Austria. They stayed in the completely remodelled Heffterhof as the first occupants of the beautifully renovated dorm rooms. Highlights of this year's program were a visit to the artist Franz Wolf, a trip to Munich including a tour of the BMW plant, a play by Friedrich Schiller in the Salzburg Landestheater, as well as the annual four-day excursion to Koeln (Cologne) where students met their pen pals from the Koenigin-Luise-Schule.

Mérida, Mexico (Co-Directors, David Burton and Daniel Torres)

The Programa Mayab celebrated twenty-four years in Merida during Winter Quarter 2003. There were 48 participants, including second-year graduate students Brian Cassady and Amy Pearson. A totally revamped web page containing pictures and essays can be found at www.oumayab.com. In Fall 2003, at the Reunion, James Callaghan, Chloe and Jorge Pacheco, and José Salazar travelled from Mérida to join the festivities.

Tours, France (Director, Chris Coski assisted by Brigitte Moretti-Coski)

This past spring, 21 advanced OU students participated in the Study Abroad Program in Tours. In addition to their classroom experiences, the students got a weekly conversation/film hour, enjoyed a group dinner in a fine restaurant, attended a theater presentation of a play by Marivaux (which fit into the context of their 18th-Century Theater course), and participated in excursions in the Loire Valley, where they visited several of France's historic castles, as well as Le Clos Lucé, the final home of Leonardo Da Vinci. In the coming year, DML master's program alum Christophe Corbin will be returning to OU to serve as director of the program.

Pamplona, Spain (Director, Jeff Marks assisted by Emilia Marks)

Now in its fifth year, the Pamplona, Spain program is attracting a growing number of students interested in intermediate- and advanced-level Spanish studies. Participants live with a Spanish host family and attend classes on the campus of the Universidad Pública de Navarra. These students become well-acquainted with the region's diverse cultural and artistic patrimony on several weekend excursions. Also, with the dual aim of giving something back to their host city and gaining a wider perspective of Spanish life, all students participate in community service activities. Many participants opt to stay more than one quarter.

Ecuador (Director, Anne Porter)

Twenty students spent spring quarter in the Ecuadorian Andes in the colonial city of Cuenca, where they lived with Ecuadorian families and took classes at the Center for Interamerican Studies. In addition to earning 16 hours of Spanish credit, they visited museums, volunteered at a day-care center, and took optional classes in music, dance and cooking. Weekend excursions included exploring Inca ruins, hiking at 12,000 feet, and camping in a cloud forest. Visits to cocoa and rice plantations, snorkeling and meeting a 93-year-old Galapagos turtle were the highlights of a week-long ecotrip to the Pacific coast. After finishing our stay in Cuenca the group spent an exciting four days in the Amazonian jungle and ended our visit to Ecuador with a trip across the equator to the northern provinces.

Faculty News

Chris Coski This year was my second year as the director of Study Abroad in Tours, and the program provided me with the opportunity to teach a new course on eighteenth-century French theater. I enjoyed presenting a short paper on Condillac at one of our department's colloquia, and also had the good fortune of getting an article on Condillac accepted for publication. On a personal level, Brigitte and I spent the year settling into our new home, and, as always, I still managed to find some time to play chess with OU's chess club.

Jose Delgado Since I have no idea where my mind has gone, and can't remember what I mentioned here last year, let's do this by seasons, shall we? FQ '02 found me in PR attending a production of my play *Muy Leal*. I also had a sabbatical then, and so my time was spent between the theater and doing research on Dario Goitia, a thrice-elected mayor of my hometown, Arecibo. Also during fall the Edwin Mellen Press published my dissertation on Osvaldo Soriano. I also read a paper at a conference while on the island. WQ '03 was mostly about teaching, and during SQ '03 La caterva presented two one-act plays by Myrna Casas. The group traveled to Kentucky and Cincinnati. Summer was spent teaching at Middlebury College in Vermont. Great ice cream. On a personal note, Alejo is now taller than I (which isn't saying much, I know), and playing varsity soccer.

Karen Evans-Romaine I have completed a three-year project co-authoring the third edition of the two-volume Russian language textbook, *Golosa*, with first author Richard Robin, Galina Shatalina, both of George Washington University, and Joanna Robin. Book One appeared in summer 2002, and Book Two in summer 2003. I continue to work on Boris Pasternak with reference to music and nineteenth-century German literature; my chapter on Pasternak's play *Blind Beauty* and Tchaikovsky's opera *Iolanta* appeared in a volume on Literature and Musical Adaptation (Rodopi, 2002). Beginning September 2003 I became the Director of the Middlebury Russian School and plan to spend my upcoming summers in Vermont. In spring 2004 I plan to take OU students to Moscow on the sixth biannual Ohio University Spring Quarter in Moscow Program.

Mary Jane Kelley During the past year, I've taught a wide variety of language and literature classes from Spanish 111 to a graduate seminar. In spring, I offered "The History of Art in Spain" for the first time to undergraduate majors, and I began planning a graduate version designed for high-school teachers. This course, which I hope to offer for the first time summer, 2005, will include a 10-day trip to Spain. My research continues to focus on Gonzalo de Berceo, and my article "Ascendant Eloquence: Language and Sanctity in the Works of Gonzalo de Berceo" will appear in *Speculum* in January 2004.

Emilia Alonso Marks I returned to Athens after spending last academic year teaching at Ohio University's Education Abroad Program in Pamplona, Spain with my husband, Jeff Marks (director of the Pamplona Program) and our two children. I will be on faculty fellowship leave next Spring in order to work on a research project that explores the connections between identity and language variation.

Francesca Mignosa I am pursuing a joint Masters' in International Affairs and Communications (with special emphasis on Latin America and Audio Visual Production). Currently I am working on final masters documentary on the role of Sicilian Puppet Theatre in Sicilian culture across time. I love to cook, travel, to know about different cultures, and enjoy international cinema and literature.

Daniel Torres At the personal level this year has been hard. I lost a grandmother, a niece and my adoptive mother. They say deaths come in sets of three and there you have it. At the professional level, I attended two conferences: Latin American Studies Association in Dallas and the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry in Boston. I presented two papers: "¿Por qué seremos tan perversas, tan derramadas: Perlongher o la perversión deliberada del camp" [Why Are We Such Perverts, So Scattered: Perlongher or The Deliberate Perversion of Camp] and "Beautiful Adolescents: Toward a Homoerotics of the New World Baroque." Three articles that I authored were published this year: "La erótica de Mayra Santos Febres" in *CENTRO: Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies* 15.2 (Fall 2003); "Verbe et chair dans la poésie homoérotique hispanoamericaine" [Word and

Flesh in Homoerotic Latin American poetry] in the volume *Cet obscur objet du désir: Représentations homosexuelles dans la culture hispanophone*. Paris: L'Harmattan, Collection "Recherches et Documents Amériques Latines, 2003: 125-133; and "Por qué seremos tan perversas, tan derramadas: Perlongher o la perversión deliberada del camp" *Letras salvajes* 1.2 (June -August 2003): <http://www.geocities.com/letrassalvajes/N2.html>.

Lois Vines The highlight of this year was seeing many former students at our department reunion in the fall. If you were not able to make it to the event, drop by Gordy Hall whenever you have a chance to visit Athens. This year has been busy with teaching and research. I have enjoyed working with students on the Learning Portfolio Project, which encourages them to seek language-learning experiences outside the classroom. My article on the film *Red* and Camus's *The Fall* came out in *Literature/Film Quarterly*. The book project that Marie-Claire Wrage and I have been working on, "A POW's Memoir of the First World War," will be published by Berg in June 2004. Other works are in progress.

Betsy Partyka I was fortunate enough to participate in a conference held in Asuncion, Paraguay this summer and took advantage of the opportunity to take my daughter Jacque with me. We stayed with author Renée Ferrer for two of the three weeks we were in the country, travelled to Iguazú Falls and a number of other sites. Jacque had her 9th birthday in true Paraguayan style with a parrillada, manioca y más. My other great adventure is working with students who volunteer time at the Alexander Elementary School. What began last year as a volunteer community project required for new HTC students has blown into a year-long event involving 20 students of both HTC and Spanish majors and minors. The OU students go to the elementary school in Albany and teach basic Spanish once a week. Last year we served over 140 students from K-3. This year the students go to 13 classrooms and give Spanish lessons to about 260 students. I teach one class of first graders and two classes of fourth graders (at the Middle School in New Marshfield). That brings us to a grand total of about 320 students who would otherwise have no language experience.

French Major Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

The College of Arts and Sciences selected Dr. Philip Gordon as one of three recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2003. Gordon's O.U. majors in French and philosophy prepared him for an extraordinary career at the international level. Currently a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, he has served as Director of European Affairs in the National Security Council, where he contributed his expertise on France, Germany, Greece, the Middle East, NATO, and U.S. foreign policy. As Director of the Center on the United States and France, he is often called upon to give his opinion on subjects dealing with the two countries.

After graduating from Ohio University in 1984, Gordon completed a Master's Degree in International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in 1987 and a Ph.D. in 1991. A very productive scholar, he has published eight books and many articles on international diplomacy and strategic relationships. Fluent in French, Gordon taught at the European Institute of Business Administration in Fontainebleau, France. He is often invited by French news publications to comment or write articles on subjects dealing with the United States. The prestigious French newspaper *Le Monde* has published several articles by Philip Gordon, and he has been quoted in *Time* magazine, among other publications.



Philip Gordon accepts his award at the Arts and Sciences dinner on September 19, 2003.

In his brief remarks upon receiving the award, Gordon credited his undergraduate experience with Bill and Marie-Claire Wrage, directors of the program in Tours, as having a major influence on his life.

Long-time Salzburg Director Honored



Dr. Barry Thomas receives his award from Deputy Mayor Susanna Neuwirth

In April 2003 Dr. Barry Thomas, Professor of German Emeritus, was recognized by the City of Salzburg, Austria, for his many years of promoting language and cultural studies in Salzburg for Ohio University students. Thomas, who directed the program 11 times between 1973 and 2000, was presented with a picture album of the city by the Deputy Mayor in the festive "Marmorsaal" of the city hall, where many Salzburg couples hold their civil marriage ceremonies (very appropriate, since Ohio University has been "wedded" to Salzburg since 1968). Also in attendance were Jean Thomas; Sigrid Stadler, assistant director and co-founder of the Spring program; the 2003 director, Professor Klaus Plonien and his wife; Fred Toner, Chair, Modern Languages; the 2003 Ohio student participants; Jeanie Meyer, American Consular Officer in Salzburg; and several members of the OU European Alumni Association, who were meeting in Salzburg at the time in the newly renovated Heffterhof (the home away from home for many generations of OU German students). In thanking the people and city of Salzburg for the warm reception OU students have received during the past 35 years, Thomas expressed confidence that the program will continue to provide our students with this valuable cultural and linguistic experience.

David Burton Receives Teaching Award

The College of Arts and Sciences selected David Burton, Associate Professor of Spanish, for the 2003 Jeanette G. Grasselli Brown Teaching Award in the Humanities. Burton's contributions to the department have had a major impact on many students. In addition to receiving consistently high student evaluations in his courses, he is involved in numerous activities outside the classroom. As advisor to undergraduate Spanish majors and advisor to the Spanish Honorary, Burton inspires students to pursue activities beyond their classes. This year he will direct the program in Merida, Mexico for the 14th time. Before select-



David Burton with his certificate and medal for the Grasselli Teaching Award

ing 45-50 participants for the program, Burton interviews some 100 applicants on campus. While in Mérida students live with Mexican families and take courses dealing with various aspects of the local culture, and are offered the chance to do an internship in the region. Burton is passionate about what he teaches and values the opportunity to share ideas. He has inspired many students to use their Spanish professionally and to become teachers. At a recent conference, five of his former students, all of whom were presenting papers, praised their mentor, David Burton.

Spanish Play

Teatro de la Caterva was at it again for the ninth year in 2002 with the April production of Myrna Casas's *Eran tres y ahora son cuatro* and *La trampa*. To give us an idea of the intended impact of these two pieces, director Pepo Delgado commented in the program notes, "El lenguaje teatral no siempre tiene que ser realista" (Dramatic language is not necessarily married to realism) and "Que cada cual entienda lo que le dé la real gana" (You can think whatever you want). Faculty actors included Marda Rose and Amado Láscar; graduate student Jorge González played two roles, and undergraduates Sara DiFeo and Shannon Leonino shared their stage talents. After a successful weekend of performances in Athens, *La Caterva* took the show on the road to both the University of Cincinnati and the University of Kentucky.

French Author Visits Classes

Barbara Samson, the author of *On n'est pas sérieux quand on a dix-sept ans* (You're not serious when you're seventeen), spent three days on campus in March. Students in French 342 classes read her book, which is an account of her personal experience of being diagnosed with AIDS. Yoko Mori, an undergraduate student in telecommunications at O.U., had read Samson's book in Japan and invited her to an AIDS conference. This event in Japan inspired Mori to organize Samson's visit to Athens, where the young French writer gave a well-attended public talk and participated in French classes. Students viewed the film version of Samson's book, which was shown on television in France. Participants in the Learning Portfolio Project conducted a videotaped interview in French with the author, who answered many questions concerning AIDS education.

Advising Award Recognizes Betsy Partyka's Efforts

The Ohio University Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA) gave special recognition to Betsy Partyka, Associate Professor of Spanish, for the support and help she offers students applying for the Fulbright and National Security Education Program (NSEP) fellowships. The federally funded NSEP was created by the U.S. Congress to help develop a greater national capacity to educate Americans to understand foreign cultures, especially those less commonly taught. Partyka mentored three successful candidates, who carried out year-long projects in South America: Marda Rose (1995), Paraguay; Lauren Whitmer (2002-03), Peru; and Kathryn

Hampton (2003-04), Venezuela. Partyka encouraged the students to apply and spent a great deal of time helping them prepare their applications, which became part of a national pool of highly qualified candidates. As ONCA Director Ann Brown pointed out at the awards ceremony, behind every successful student is a faculty mentor willing to offer time, support, and knowledge. Betsy Partyka exemplifies the ideal advisor who is informed, encourages students to pursue competitive opportunities, and is willing to spend the time necessary to prepare an outstanding application.

Two Students in German Win Fulbright Teaching Assistantships

Vince Baratta and Kris Imbrigotta were selected by the national Fulbright committee to receive grants to teach English in Germany. Vince, who majored in German and education, is teaching in a high school in the Hamburg region. A German and European Studies major, Kris is working in a school in the city of Hamburg. Although Vince grew up in a bilingual Italian family, he has wanted to teach German since he began learning the language in high school. Kris was inspired to learn German at an early age when his mother taught him to count in the language. Both Vince and Chris studied abroad on our department's program in Salzburg and have participated in numerous language activities on campus.

Spanish TA Wins University Teaching Award

Amy Leafgren, Teaching Associate in Spanish, was chosen from a large pool of university-wide candidates to receive the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for 2003. Created by the Graduate Student Senate to recognize the contributions of teaching assistants at Ohio University, the award was presented by President Robert Glidden at the May 14th ceremony. During the presentation, the Graduate Student Senate president remarked: "We are extremely impressed with Amy's exceptional contributions to the advancement of undergraduate education at O.U." Carole Cloutier, Language Program Director for first-year Spanish, who nominated Amy for the award, visited Amy's classes and required TAs in Spanish to observe each other's teaching. According to Cloutier, "Not only do Amy's professors think of her as a model teaching associate, her peers also see her teaching as the model to which they want to aspire." The Department of Modern Languages is proud to have Amy as the first-time winner of the graduate teaching award.



Amy Leafgren (center) being congratulated by Carole Cloutier (left), Fred Toner, and Betsy Partyka

Scholarship and Award Recipients

URSULA FEER FARFEL SCHOLARSHIP

Jamie Golden

MARY L. DURNION SCHOLARSHIP

Rebecca Williams

Julie Waters

MARY T. NOSS SCHOLARSHIP

Christy Johnson

Kelly O'Reilly

Karen Kell

Lisa Swarbrick

Michele Satchell

Kayte Whitmer

Elise Thomasson

Jessica Schelgel

Meredith Hartnagle

LASH AND LEETE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Maria Lokshin

Cara DiBlasi

Robert Chalifoux

Christen Ryan

MAXINE McCrory Memorial Scholarship

Summer Crum

Shane Foster

Justin List

Lisa Vogt

GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD

Outstanding Junior French Majors

Christy Johnson

Kelly O'Reilly

GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD

Outstanding Graduating Senior in French

Elizabeth Kittle

OUTSTANDING GRADUATING SENIOR IN SPANISH

Melissa Lander

Graduate Awards

OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSOCIATE IN

FRENCH

Kate Burin

OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSOCIATE IN

SPANISH

Amy Leafgren

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A l u m N E W S

1953

Yvonne S. Emerson Sherow (Fr BA, MA '85)

I retired in 1996 but then, due to an ad in our weekly paper, saw an announcement of a part-time French position at a new college in an adjacent town. I applied and am now in my third year as an Adjunct Professor of French at Southern Virginia University in Buena Vista, VA. It is a small but growing Mormon institution.

1972

Marlene Herman Darwin (Sp)

I just received my Ph.D. in Education specializing in adolescent literacy from George Mason University. For 11 years I've been a reading specialist in middle and high schools in Fairfax County in Northern Virginia. I also teach graduate courses at George

Mason University. I use my language skills to communicate with parents and to help my students in high school.

1979

John D. Allen (Int Studies BA Sp)

President and COO of Wilden Pump and Engineering Company in Grand Terrace, California. Educate and motivate worldwide network for distributors to dominate the sale of air operated double diaphragm pumps. I use Spanish extensively in conducting day-to-day business and also initiate technical seminars in Spanish.

1981

Sherry Stollar Bentley (Sp Minor)

At this point in time, I am a substitute elementary teacher and am not using my Spanish much. However, I do use it at times to motivate my

"students for the day" to have good behavior by teaching them some Spanish if they earn a certain number of points for the day. In a long-term assignment last year (3rd grade), I greeted the students every morning in Spanish and they had to respond in Spanish as well individually. My past experience also includes tutoring Mexican migrant workers' children in Tipp City, Ohio from August until mid-October when they finished working at the tomato cannery there and moved on. That was more of an ESL type of assignment but my Spanish background helped me communicate with children and parents. I was employed by and worked in a Tipp City elementary school. It was a great way to couple my major (Elementary Education) and minor (Spanish).

Alum NEWS

1995

Mary Caffrey (Ger)

I am currently Assistant Director of Marketing for Enrollment Management at the University of Dayton. I recently moved to University of Dayton's enrollment management division after three years as coordinator of the university's study abroad programs. As a dual major in journalism and German, I am glad I've had the opportunity to use both my degrees professionally.

1997

Kelley Walters (Sp BA)

After running a marathon in Florida in 2002 to benefit the American Stroke Association, Kelley joined the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's "Tour de Tuscon" century bike ride in Tuscon, Arizona this year. Kelley is employed at the University of Washington in Seattle, and was married in late summer.

2000

Gina Honigford Towner (Fr MA)

I married Cliff Towner, a high school band director and graduate student at

Wright State, in March 2002. We live in Cincinnati. I currently teach French at McNicholas High School in Cincinnati, but will be beginning a new job teaching at St. Ursula Academy in Cincinnati this fall.

Kristin Keifer Camara (Fr BA)

After finishing my B.A., I received my M.A. in Linguistics at Ohio University in 2002. I'm in my second year of teaching French at Meigs High School in Pomeroy, Ohio. After having spent a few years abroad, it has been interesting teaching a foreign language and culture in a small, rural community here in Ohio. I've learned that teaching high-school students is like teaching another culture in and of itself. I got married a little over a year ago to William Camara. I met him while I was teaching English in Dax, France in 1998. Since we have been married, we have acquired a rather large family consisting of dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs and pet rats.

2001

Bethany Widmayer (Fr)

After a year of teaching French at Chillicothe High School and Smith Middle School in Chillicothe, Ohio, I am back in Athens for the Masters' program in French. I am very happy to be working with Dr. Vines and Dr. Toner again. I look forward to learning more from them. After I finish the MA program, I plan to obtain teacher licensure as well as my TEFL and ESL certification. I hope to be working in France this summer.

2003

Kelly Weinfurtner (Fr)

After working for the second time this summer in Paris, I applied for a TEFL program in Rome where I spent a month slaving over the difficulties of the English language, only to find that the real fun lay in an Irish pub called Morrisons. I am now in France studying French with BGSU's master's program. We are having a Thanksgiving dinner where we can thank the Lord for all the blessings he has given us with our fellow French friends.

Thank You for Your Gift!

Two-hundred years! Ohio University is fast approaching its 200th birthday in 2004, and we have a lot to celebrate. Through the Bicentennial Campaign, Ohio University seeks to raise \$200 million. By making a gift to the Campaign, alumni and friends of the Department of Modern Languages are providing scholarship support for undergraduate students, travel funds for graduate students to participate in conferences, and an array of other needs that are normally not met through tuition and other sources of revenue. Private support has become increasingly important in allowing us to provide the best possible experiences for our students.

We invite you to participate in the celebration by making a gift to the department. If you have made a gift in the past, we wish to extend our sincere thanks. If you would like to make a gift, you may do so in the following ways:

By check: Make your check payable to the Ohio University Foundation and designate the Department of Modern Languages in the memo section. (See p. 11 for a list of specific funds) You can send it to the Ohio University Foundation, P.O. Box 869, Athens, Ohio 45701.

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On behalf of everyone in the Department of Modern Languages, we thank you for your support!

Say There®

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Modern Language Memories and Mementoes: An Archival Expedition

“History is bunk!” So, allegedly, proclaimed Henry Ford. Of course, one can only legitimately make that judgment if one is informed about the past. The Department of Modern Languages at Ohio University has enjoyed a long and interesting history, although many of the facts, figures and stories have lain buried in the archives and much invaluable first-hand knowledge is lost as succeeding generations of faculty leave the scene. My “Bicentennial History of the Department of Modern Languages, 1804-2004” arose from the realization that many current faculty members have little knowledge of the history and traditions of the department. Not surprising, since there has been almost a 100% turnover in the last ten to fifteen years. My first approach to connecting this “missing link” was simply to create a list of all the chairs of the department, which might provide some sense of the continuity of language teaching at Ohio University. However, the question soon arose as to when the separate departments of Romance Languages and German/Russian actually became one Department of Modern Languages. In researching both these topics it became clear that modern languages had played a role in the growth of Ohio University from soon after the initiation of classes in the early 19th century. Rather than just compiling a list of chairs, it seemed appropriate to describe the whole history of the five languages (French, German, Italian, Russian & Spanish) now housed in the Department of Modern Languages at Ohio University.

Creating an accurate list of chairs proved to be a difficult undertaking, since chairs are not officially designated in the catalogues until 1947. Constructing the general outlines of the departmental history was a somewhat easier task, since the archives department of Alden Library possesses a wealth of valuable sources. The devil, of course, is in the details, and a couple of vexing problems could not be fully elucidated. Nevertheless, digging through the archives and unearthing one gem after another was an exciting and rewarding task. This publication lays no claim to completeness. As with the Department itself, the history is a work in progress, which, I hope, will continue to provide a better understanding of the past while building a bridge to the future.

Barry Thomas, Professor of German Emeritus

For a complete history of the DML department go to this address:

<http://lrc-web.modlang.ohiou.edu/waltje/DMLHistory.pdf>
or you can request a hard copy by sending an e-mail to:
modern.languages@ohio.edu

Thanks!

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.: _____
Year of graduation from 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, P.O. Box 869, Athens, OH 45701 with the name of the fund clearly indicated on the check.

- _____ Modern Languages Study Abroad
- _____ French Language Fund
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- _____ Language Lab Fund
- _____ Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance Fund
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