

## Kit Brown and Daniel Torres Win Outstanding Teaching Awards

Two faculty members in Modern Languages have been honored with teaching awards from the College of Arts and Sciences. Daniel Torres, Professor of Spanish, has won the 2005 Dean's Outstanding Teacher Award in the Humanities, and Kit Brown, Instructor in Spanish, has been awarded the Outstanding Group II Faculty Award.

Torres has taught at all levels from Spanish 111 to Spanish 603 and has developed a number of new courses that have substantially enriched the curriculum. He includes a strong cultural component in his courses, with diversity being one of the main themes in his literary and language instruction. A dedicated mentor and advisor, Torres works tirelessly with students, offering to read and comment on their writing. He has organized conference sessions in which his graduate students have presented papers. For the past decade, Torres has co-directed our winter study abroad program in Mérida, Mexico. The program is essential to the development and quality of our department's majors and minors and, in addition, serves students from all segments of the university. On campus, Torres is actively involved in activities outside the classroom, such as Spanish conversation hour and participation in play productions. Students appreciate his dedication to high academic standards and his activities that engage them outside the classroom.

Group II faculty members are non-tenure-track instructors who play a major role in the teaching mission

at Ohio University. To recognize these highly skilled and dedicated professionals, the College of Arts and Sciences selects one person each year for the Outstanding Group II Faculty Award. Our department is honored to have Kit Brown selected as the 2005 recipient of the award.



Kathleen (Kit) Brown and Daniel Torres

Brown is known for her high quality, innovative teaching in the first- and second-year levels of Spanish. To help students make the transition to college-level language classes, Brown was instrumental in creating Spanish 199, an intensive review course for students with some background in Spanish who lack the confidence to enter the second-year level. She uses technology effectively and imaginatively to help students develop their language skills. Brown made a series

of video-taped interviews with native speakers, which

she uses to engage students in understanding Hispanic artists, authors and visiting scholars. In course evaluations, students praise her dedication to making Spanish interesting and fun to learn. They also appreciate the time she spends outside of class helping with difficult points and learning strategies. A student's remark on an evaluation, often repeated by others, suggests why Brown is a winner: "She is always excited to be teaching, which motivated me."

The Department of Modern Languages is very pleased to congratulate Daniel Torres and Kit Brown on their outstanding contributions to excellence in teaching at Ohio University.

# Letter from the Chair

Greetings Friends and Colleagues,

As we come to the close of 2005 and look forward to 2006, it is increasingly clear that we are in a time of transition in the Department of Modern Languages, at Ohio University, and in our profession. A new university President, a new Provost, a new Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, and the development of a new Strategic Plan for the university have inspired conversations about what is best about our past that we wish to carry forward, and what new initiatives are possible for an even more successful future.



Looking back, there is much to inspire pride for our profession and for the department. Resolutions in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives declared 2005 as the Year of Languages in the United States. Almost twenty governors have issued proclamations in support and over 30 other organizations and associations have done the same. Under the leadership of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, and with the support of other regional and national organizations, language educators have been basking in the glow of this unprecedented, but much deserved, attention. On our campus, the department has also been highlighted, thanks to the efforts of two more award-winning teachers and an outstanding mentor. You'll see the details of these awards, to Daniel Torres, Kit Brown, and Betsy Partyka, in the feature articles of this issue of *Say There*. This recognition, coupled with the continuing impressive scholarly activity of our faculty and our award-winning students, brings positive attention to the department and accentuates its important contribution to the quality of the university.

We also have good reason to be optimistic for the future. The upper administration of the university has asked faculty and staff to participate in the articulation of "Vision Ohio." This ambitious strategic plan is to bring O.U. to a leading role in the region, state, nation and beyond. Our department is poised to play a pivotal role in two key areas of the plan: the internationalization of the curriculum and the celebration of diversity. We should also contribute to a third goal, that of developing partnerships. We continue to expand the study abroad programs sponsored by our department. The new program in Martinique over winter intersession is the latest example of these exciting possibilities. The addition of the program in Puerto Rico this year will add to the growing area of Caribbean studies and increased opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

The addition of two excellent new faculty members, who are introduced in the following pages, strengthens the feeling of optimism for the future. Even our beloved Gordy Hall will see improvements, as the installation of computer and projector cabinets in all classrooms should be completed by the end of winter.

On behalf of the department, I invite you to visit the campus and the improved facilities. You are part of the pride we feel in our past and we invite you to contribute to our continuing success!

Best regards,  
Fred

**Say There®**

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# Study Abroad

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## **Ecuador (Director, Anne Porter)**

Eleven students made the trip to Cuenca this year and took classes in The Center for Interamerican Studies (CEDEI), which had moved to a new, more modern and spacious location. They also took optional classes in pottery and dance, and did volunteer work in a home for abandoned children. While we were there, the President of Ecuador was forced to resign and flee the country. That made for some exciting headlines, but fortunately did not affect us at all. The highlights of our excursions this year included a four-hour round trip on horseback through the mud to visit an organic farm and tubing down a tributary of the Amazon river. [www.ohiou.edu/studyabroad/LATAMER/cuenca.html](http://www.ohiou.edu/studyabroad/LATAMER/cuenca.html)

## **Martinique (Director, Yolande Helm)**

During the winter intersession this past year, I took, for the first time, ten students to study at the "Université de Formation des Maîtres d'Ecole" in Martinique, a French island in the Caribbean. The students lived with families, some French, some Martinicans, and went on a number of excursions, including a trip to "La Montagne Pelée," famous for its major eruption in 1902. Courses on works written by native writers, including the well-known Aimé Césaire and Suzanne Dracius, made the experience all the more interesting for the students. Césaire read his poetry and participated in a discussion, which was videotaped for future viewing. If you would like to learn more, visit our website under Study Abroad, Martinique: <http://www.ohio.edu/modlang/french/frenchabroad.cfm>

## **Mérida, Mexico (Co-Directors, David Burton and Daniel Torres, Assisted by Jessica Rangel and Lori Lammert)**

Programa Mayab celebrated 26 years of taking OU students to study in Mérida. Fifty-six undergraduates participated this year with four students doing internships in governmental and non-governmental organizations. Highlights of this year's program include Daniel Torres' presenting two books at the UADY, our winning the "People's Choice Award" in the "Chili Cook Off" sponsored by the Mérida English Library, and a surprise party celebrating Burton's 15 years as director, given by the host families at the Sosa Rodríguez family ranch. <http://www.oumayab.com/>

## **Pamplona, Spain (Director, Jeff Marks, Assisted by Irma Sturtze)**

Since 1998, the Pamplona, Spain program has attracted an increasing number of students interested not only in intermediate- and advanced-level Spanish studies, but also in literature, linguistics, Spanish film, and politics. Participants choose to stay one, two, three or all four quarters (a summer session was added in 2004). Each student lives with a Spanish host family and attends classes on the campus of the Universidad Pública de Navarra. The students become well acquainted with the region's diverse cultural and historical patrimony on different weekend excursions. Also, with the dual aim of becoming further integrated into the culture and giving something back to their host city, all students participate in community service activities. [http://www-as.phy.ohiou.edu/Departments/Mod\\_Lang/abroad/Pamplona!.html](http://www-as.phy.ohiou.edu/Departments/Mod_Lang/abroad/Pamplona!.html)

## **Quebec City, Canada (Director, Christophe Corbin, Assisted by Pernille Visgo)**

In July 2005, 17 students participated in our second Summer Study Abroad Program at Université Laval in Quebec City. In addition to their classes, students had the opportunity to engage in social and cultural activities, such as cooking classes, singing, and basketball, every afternoon under the guidance of French-speaking leaders. Weekend excursions included whale watching on the Saint Lawrence River, rafting, and visiting a nearby *Cabane à sucre* to enjoy local food and music. The students were especially impressed by Quebec's legendary hospitality and the many activities the city has to offer. Next year the program will be extended to six weeks. Information about the program can be found at <http://www.ohio.edu/modlang/french/frenchabroad.cfm>

## **Salzburg, Austria (Director, Maïke Ahrends)**

Sixteen students participated in this year's program in Salzburg, Austria where political events, such as the 60th anniversary of the end of WW II, the election of a German pope, and a referendum on whether Salzburg should apply to host future Olympic Games, provided interesting international and regional topics for discussion. On our visit to Cologne, students met their German pen pals, who treated us to a tour of the city. Having formed close friendships with fellow students in Cologne, some of our students later returned to the city on their own. This year we started a pen-pal friendship also with high school students in Salzburg whom we visited both inside and outside the classroom. <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~sath/austriahomepage.htm>

## **Tours, France (Director, Christophe Corbin, assisted by Katy Adair)**

Last Spring, 13 students participated in our Study Abroad Program in Tours. For 11 weeks, students took classes at the Institut de Touraine, and enjoyed the bustling café and restaurant scene. The group first met in Paris, where they stayed in a seventeenth-century manor in the very heart of the city. As part of the excursions included in the program, the group spent a weekend in Saint-Malo and in Mont Saint-Michel, and one in a castle close to Poitiers and at La Rochelle on the Atlantic Coast. All the students greatly benefited from this now classic immersion program. Information about the program can be found at <http://www.ohio.edu/modlang/french/frenchabroad.cfm>

# Faculty News

**David Burton** During the year 2004-05, I read two papers at conferences. At Hofstra University's conference in November "Don Quixote: The First 400 Years," I read a paper on Boismortier's Don Quichotte chez la Duchesse. This is an 18th-century French opera-ballet based loosely on Don Quixote's stay at the palace of the Duke and Duchess. In April I read a paper at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, "Deeds Done in God: Saints Mary Magdalene, Martha, and Catherine of Alexandria." The paper dealt with the lives of three female saints as found in a 14th C. manuscript in the Escorial. In August my *Anthology of Medieval Spanish Prose* came out from Juan de la Cuesta Press in Newark, Delaware, as No. 17 in the Cervantes & Co. series for undergraduates. I also celebrated 15 years as Director of the Programa Mayab.

**Carole Cloutier** In 2005 McGraw-Hill published my book on methodology and second-language acquisition, *Curso de metodología - teoría y práctica. Aprendizaje del español como segunda lengua*. In 2004 my collection of 100 activities appeared: *Situation Task Cards - Task-based Activities that Promote Meaningful Interaction in the L2 Classroom* (Prentice Hall).

**Tom Franz** I have completed a new book manuscript and have submitted it to a press. The profession has been kind enough to name me to the editorial board of two journals, *Decimonónica* and *Cuadernos de la Cátedra Miguel de Unamuno*. One big news item for our family was that our son, Andy, became an Eagle Scout. Andy is living in a dorm at OU and is beginning his first year of a pre-med program. Katie is in her second year of middle school. Byron continues to be in anti-terrorist work for the FBI, and he and his wife Lisa are expecting their first child. Gretchen and Wayne still work as nurse and physician and this year vacationed in Cancún. I soon am heading for Spain to lecture on Cervantes and Unamuno.

**Betsy Partyka** I presented a paper on the works of Paraguayan author Sara Karlik in Puerto Varas, Chile this summer. I was fortunate to stay with this author for a number of days while in Santiago during which I interviewed her about many details of her novels and short stories. The most exciting part of this

trip was that my eldest daughter Jacque (turned 11 in Santiago) came with me and we spent nearly a month in Patagonia collecting 100s of slides and eating lots of *congriso*. New developments in my career include serving as interim director of Latin American Studies this year, a job that is keeping me more busy than ever. I am enjoying learning the ropes and hope to see more of our own students combining MA degrees in the future.

**Nikhil Sathe** In Fall 2004 and Fall 2005 I presented papers on Uwe Timm at the annual German Studies Association conference, and in Spring 2005 I presented a paper on the representation of Eastern Europeans in recent Austrian cinema at the annual Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association conference. My article on Uwe Timm's *Am Beispiel meines Bruders* has been accepted to a volume on the representation of German wartime suffering to be published with deGruyter. In Winter 2005 I was elected as second vice president of the Ohio Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German. I am looking forward to returning to Austria to serve as director of the Salzburg Study Abroad Program in Spring 2006.

**Daniel Torres** In September 2005, my new book, *Verbo y carne en la lírica homoerótica hispanoamericana*, was published by Cuarto Propio Press in Chile. During Fall 2005 I am in Mexico on sabbatical preparing my next research project on the construction of a creole identity in the poetry of the Latin American baroque writer Sigüenza y Góngora. This year, I presented papers at the Cincinnati Romance Languages and Literatures Conference as well as at the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry in Miami and at the MLA in Washington, D.C. In addition, I published four articles in *Unicornio*, *Letras salvajes*, *Inverses* and *Nueva narrativa puertorriqueña*. As a creative writer, I have one book in press to be titled *Mariconerías: Escritos de aquí y de allá* and Terranova Editores in Puerto Rico will be publishing a second edition of my novella *Morirás si da una primavera* in March 2006.

**Manual Triano-López** Last May, I fulfilled my dream of earning a PhD in Hispanic Linguistics at Indiana University. This milestone was befittingly complemented by OU's offer of a tenure-track position in the DML. I am very

excited about the opportunity to strengthen the linguistics component of our Spanish program.

**Lois Vines** At the March conference of the Ohio Foreign Language Association I enjoyed visiting with former students who have joined the profession as teachers. The session on cultural aspects of *Astérix* that I presented with Kim Niemeyer was selected by conference participants as "Best of Ohio," which comes with an invitation to present it again at the Central States Conference in Chicago this coming March. The Modern Language Association selected a chapter I wrote to be included in a book on Edgar Allan Poe. I am currently working on a book proposal with our new colleague Manuel Triano-López on the subject of language laws and linguistic protectionism.

## Emeriti News

**Wally Cameron**, Professor Emeritus of Spanish and director of the study abroad program in Mexico from 1970 to 1985, moved to Texas upon retirement and has continued to enjoy frequent trips to Mexico. He recently had some health problems but is making good progress toward recovery. If you would like to get in touch, his current address is: Wallace J. Cameron, The Bridges, 5208 So. Sugar Road, Edinburg, TX 78539.

**Ursula Lawson**, Professor Emerita of German who initiated the first study abroad program for students in German and continued to be involved as study abroad director from 1969 to 1986, is pursuing her love of painting. Her work has been exhibited in Nelsonville at the office of the Foundation for Appalachian Development and in Columbus. In January 2006 her work will be shown at the Athens Public Library, where she will be the "Artist of the Month."

**Bill Wrage**, Professor Emeritus of French and director of the study abroad program in France between 1976 and 1996, teaches one quarter each year in our department. He enjoys painting and is featured as the "October Artist of the Month" at the Athens Public Library, where his work is being displayed. His paintings and drawings have been shown in Siegfried Gallery at Ohio University, Peoples Banks in Athens and Marietta, and French Art Colony in Gallipolis.

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## Betsy Partyka: Outstanding Tutor, Honors Tutorial College

Betsy Partyka, Associate Professor of Spanish, is one of two O.U. faculty members to be selected for this year's Outstanding Tutor Award given by the Honors Tutorial College. Tutorials, a form of undergraduate education developed at Oxford and Cambridge universities, involve faculty members in teaching students either one-on-one or in a small group setting. Several factors go into the selection of the Outstanding Tutor, including nominations, student evaluations of tutors and input from colleagues. Partyka has been a tutor in Spanish in the Honors Tutorial College since 1993 and Director of Studies in Spanish since 1995. She has mentored students who have won nationally competitive awards. Most recently, Kathryn Hampton received a National Security Education Program Scholarship (now called the David L. Boren Scholarship) to do research in Venezuela. Lauren Whitmer received the same award for a project in Peru. Another Honors Tutorial student mentored by Partyka, Aaron Kahn, just completed his D.Phil. in Spanish at Oxford University in England, Partyka's alma mater.

Congratulations to Betsy Partyka for mentoring some of Ohio University's outstanding students!

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## Department Welcomes Two New Spanish Faculty

Manuel Triano-López and Amanda Nolacea Harris joined our Spanish faculty this fall, and will each contribute a unique vision to the teaching and research mission of the department.

Amanda, a native of Chicago, comes to us most recently from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she held the 2003-2004 Chicana Studies Dissertation Fellowship. At the University of Illinois, she has taught courses in both Spanish and Latina/Latino Studies while pursuing course work for the Ph.D in Spanish. Amanda's research projects an integrated vision of American literature through its exploration of Latina/Latino themes in works written in both North and South America and in both Spanish and English. Amanda and her husband, Amado Láscar, also of the OU Spanish faculty, have a one-year-old daughter, Hannah, who delights and charms their life outside the department.



Amanda Nolacea Harris and Manuel Triano-López

Manolo, who hails from Huelva, Spain, earned his Ph.D in 2004 from Indiana University in Hispanic Linguistics with a minor in Law. This interdisciplinary focus reflects his interest in governmental language planning and purification, which Manolo applied to his dissertation on language planning in the bilingual autonomous region of Valencia, Spain. Manolo's teaching experience at IU includes courses in Spanish language, Hispanic Linguistics, and a linguistics department offering called "Freedom of Speech in the US." Manolo's talents at basketball, honed in central Indiana, the basketball capital of the world, have greatly increased Modern Languages' force in the weekdays-at-noon pickup games in the Ping Recreation Center.

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## Tenure And Promotion For Waltje And Morrison

The department was proud to support the successful candidacy of Molly Morrison and Jörg Waltje for tenure and promotion to associate professor during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Since her arrival at OU in 1997, Molly Morrison has overseen a veritable renaissance in the Italian program. Enrollment has skyrocketed in our Italian language classes, and OU students are now able to complete an interdisciplinary certificate in Italian Studies, which Morrison developed and now coordinates. The certificate requires participation in OU's study abroad program in Rome, which Morrison directed in 2001. In addition to her teaching and administrative duties, Morrison has maintained a productive research agenda with numerous publications on the writings of Dante and medieval Italian female saints.

Jörg Waltje joined our faculty in 1999 to replace Phil Richardson, who had retired that year as director of the new Gordy Hall Language Resource Center. Waltje has honored the Richardson legacy by maintaining the LRC's state-of-the-art status through successful grant applications for over \$200,000 in equipment funds. Waltje passes on his knowledge each quarter to students in his classes on instructional technology and he shares the results of his research with colleagues through publications on technology in language instruction. In 2004, Peter Lang Press published Waltje's book *Blood Obsession* (<http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~waltje/vampires.html>), which studies the psychology of the vampire in fiction and film.

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# Department Recognized for Outstanding Participation by the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards

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In May, Modern Languages received the Outstanding Department Award from the Ohio University Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA), whose mission is to identify highly motivated students early in their college careers and mentor them as they apply for prestigious scholarships and fellowships at the national level. Ann Brown, Director of ONCA, praised our department's efforts on behalf of students: "We chose Modern Languages for our Outstanding Department Award this year because of their faculty's extraordinary service. The Modern Language faculty mentor countless students as they compete for nationally competitive awards, write endless letters of recommendation, assist with language assessment and serve on review, selection, and mock interview committees. Their efforts have been critical to our students' intellectual and personal development, and to their wonderful successes in annual competitions." The department received \$500 to use for student engagement activities. While our faculty members help mentor candidates university-wide, students in our own department have received a large number of nationally competitive awards in the past few years, including five Fulbright Teaching Awards, seven National Security Education Program Fellowships, and twenty-five French Government Teaching Assistantships. Overall, 2004-05 was a banner year for OU students who competed for and won national awards in unprecedented numbers. A total of 68 students submitted 85 applications for 30 distinct awards. Of these, an amazing 37 were successful in the competitions (43% of the candidates), more than any other university in Ohio.

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## Graduating Seniors Receive International Awards

### Students Awarded Assistantships in France

Assistantships to teach English in France for nine months are awarded on a competitive basis by the French Government. Six students in French from our department were selected for assistantships in France for 2005-2006: Bridget Bell, Jennifer Eureka, Mike Gulley, Kristina Mauer, Jessica Turner, and Bethany Untied. The assistants teach English in the public schools for twelve hours a week and benefit from their free time to perfect their language skills and get to know the culture better. The French Government provides living expenses and health insurance for the assistants during their stay.

### Three German Majors Receive Fulbright Awards

Fulbright teaching and research awards are made through a national competition that begins on campus with selection and interview committees. Our department is very proud to have three Fulbright recipients. Kara Petrosky (B.A. German 2005) will serve as a Teaching Assistant in English in Erfurt, Germany. Arthur Cornwell (B.A. 2005 German/International Studies) will be an English Teaching Assistant in Eisenstadt, Austria. Selected for a Research Fulbright in Malaysia is Sonita Wachtel (B.A. German/International Studies 2003; M.A. International Studies 2005).

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## Undergraduates Excel in Learning Portfolios and Research

Learning beyond the classroom plays an important role in our department. Through a pilot project initiated by Fred Toner, undergraduate students in French, Spanish, German, and Russian are encouraged to prepare a Language Learning Portfolio in which they document their progress in a number of language skills and experiences while working with a faculty mentor. In June, Lisa Swarbrick, a French and Visual Communication major, presented her portfolio, which includes various types of written documents, video programs she created on a CD, interviews, and photography, one of her passions. The portfolio is designed by the student to reflect his or her interests as they are related to the language major.

Students pursuing special research projects can apply for support from the Provost's Undergraduate Research Fund, a competitive award open to all undergraduates on campus. Emily Ann Wagener, a French major in the Honors Tutorial College, has received one of the fifteen grants awarded to HTC students in the university-wide competition. Her project, "Language Law and Diversity: A Case Study of Quebec Law 101," will fund a research trip to Quebec, where she will study the practical application of the French Language Charter, which defines French as the sole official language of Quebec. She will make a presentation to the department in the spring and incorporate her findings in an ongoing research project.

### **Delta Phi Alpha: German Honor Society**

We are planning on several activities this year, some in cooperation with the newly founded German Club, such as Game Night, Oktoberfest and Movies. We will host our annual inauguration dinner for new inductees in late February.

### **Phi Sigma Iota: French Honor Society**

At the induction dinner in February, nine outstanding students in French became members of Phi Sigma Iota. Induction Dinner Photos can be viewed at: <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~coski/phisigmaiotadinner2005.html>. This past spring Phi Sigma Iota also participated in "Around the World in Gordy Hall," a great event with display rooms devoted to all of the countries in which OU runs Study Abroad Programs. The French-speaking room had information on Martinique, Quebec, and of course, France, along with interactive displays and lots of good food. Photos of the room can be viewed at: <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~coski/ATW05.html>

### **Sigma Delta Pi: Spanish Honor Society**

The Spanish honorary initiated 5 faculty as honorary members and 11 undergraduates in late May of 2005. Officers elected for 2005-06 were Sarah Ganslein, President; Summer Crum, Vice-President; Jessica Anderson, Secretary; Layne Hanson, Treasurer.

### **German Club**

This organization was founded in Spring 2005 by Sara Mansfield along with other returnees from the Salzburg and Leipzig Study Abroad programs. It is open to all students, regardless of major or language skill level. The German Club aims to create an annual scholarship for a study abroad student to a German-speaking country. The German Club also plans to host film showings and a possible field trip to the Hofbräuhaus in Cincinnati, and it had its first German dinner in October 2005. Faculty Advisor: Nikhil Sathe.

### **End-of-year Honors**

Annually in late spring, the department hosts various events to recognize student achievement. In late May, the French section invites its scholarship and award recipients to lunch in a private room in Baker Center. (Students honored are listed in the right-hand column of this page.) Spanish faculty honored their outstanding undergraduate majors at a dinner during finals week at the Methodist church here on campus. On graduation day, we invited graduates and their families to our fourth annual buffet luncheon in Gordy Hall featuring a colorful, international selection of foods, all prepared by Modern Languages faculty.

## **Scholarship and Award Recipients**

### **URSULA FEER FARFEL SCHOLARSHIP**

Jamie Golden

### **MARY L. DURNION SCHOLARSHIP**

Megan Beck  
Jennifer Case

### **MARY T. NOSS SCHOLARSHIP**

Roger Anderson  
Rachel Friedson  
Kathryn Harris  
Alisha Hunt  
Sarah Schwartzman

### **LASH & LEETE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Elizabeth Emery  
Emily Ann Wagener

### **MAXINE McCRORY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Lauren Phillips  
Lauren Sorrows  
Leah Vincent

### **GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD Outstanding Junior French Majors**

Elizabeth Emery  
Jamie Golden

### **GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD Outstanding Graduating Seniors in French**

Martha Broom-Barxias  
Rebecca Bowen  
Bethany Untied

## **Graduate Awards**

### **OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSOCIATE IN FRENCH**

Melanie Myers

### **OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSOCIATE IN SPANISH**

Maritza Parra

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# Alum NEWS

**Inca Kayon Silver (Spanish 1961)**  
Teaching at Edgewater High School in Orlando, Florida for 31 years (Spanish and Italian). Foreign Language Department Chair. Orange County Foreign Language Teacher of the Year.

**Elizabeth C. Hamilton Hildreth (MA Spanish 1969)** I retired from teaching Spanish at Delaware Academy High School last June 30, 2004. Yes, I am still using my language skills. One of my friends wants to learn Spanish so I'm helping her.

**Kelly Hamby Gohmann (BA Spanish 1992)** I currently teach Spanish II and III at Lakota West High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. I have been teaching there for 11 years, and next year will be head of the foreign language department. I am married and have a 6-year-old son. I would love to get in touch with Alicia Earnest who was my roommate in México in 1992.

**Catherine Sullivan Andang (MA French 1994)** I'm about to embark on a career as a Foreign Service Officer with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and am hoping for a first posting in Francophone Africa. I just finished 5 years working for the Peace Corps, first in Washington then in Bangladesh. I use French every day at home-my husband, Guy, is a native of Cameroon. We have 2 children: Maeve, 3 1/2 years and Kieran, 8 1/2 months.

**Luis Matías-Cruz (MA Spanish 1994)** I'm currently teaching full-time at Baylor University-Spanish, Latin American Studies and Economics. Also writing my dissertation on alternatives to violent movements through the Free University in Amsterdam, Netherlands. My wife (Ramona Ryan BA in Spanish 1982 and MA in International Affairs 1989) and I have 3 children, ages 14, 8, and 3.

**Rebecca Moore (BA 2000; MA 2002)** I have a teaching position at Heritage

University in Toppenish, Washington, a very small, private university. I'll be able to teach French and history at some point, but I'm starting by teaching ESL classes this fall.

**Laura Hunt Johnson (Spanish 2002)** I got married to my high school sweetheart in July 2003. I still communicate with former graduate teacher, Yris Vaca. I have surfed web sites in which I can practice my Spanish. My Russian skills are not so good anymore.

**Liesel Ramsey (BA French 2002)** After graduation from Ohio University in 2002, I spent a year teaching English to elementary students in the South of France. It was a wonderful experience and I would recommend it to everyone, not just those who want to be teachers. I am now in my second year of graduate school at Boston University studying International Relations/International Communication. I will finish in September 2005 after the presentation of my Master's thesis.



# A l u m N E W S

**Missy Deehring (BA French 2003)** I'm in law school in San Francisco. I'm considering an international law program and exchange with a Parisian law school. Will keep you updated if I do it.

**Joel Sidwell (BA German 2003)** I received my BA after finishing a year abroad at Johannes-Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. I took one year off to work and apply for graduate school in education. I was accepted to OSU's

M.Ed. program in Spring of 2004 and began the program that June. I graduated with my Master of Education degree in foreign and second language education on June 12, 2005 from Ohio State. I got a job with Copiague Public Schools on Long Island, New York and will be beginning my first year as the middle and high school German teacher.

**Aaron Kahn (SP)** has just received his DPhil in Spanish literature from Oxford

University in England. We are very proud of Aaron. He graduated from HTC in Spanish, completed three years of doctoral work in England, then returned to teach for OU for one year while completing the final draft of his dissertation. He defended in June and received his official letter in October. If you would like to contact Aaron, his info is:  
aaron.kahn@linacre.ox.ac.uk

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## Professor Barry Thomas recently heard from several Salzburg alums:

Greg Glenn (Salzburg '86): Greg, a TCOM major, says "das Programm in Salzburg war der Höhepunkt meines OU-Lebens." Greg is currently working for KYW Newsradio in Philadelphia in AM Engineering, but he has had many marvelous experiences because of his German language and cultural skills. E-mail at g.j.glenn@verizon.net or Glenn@kyw.com

Stella Feichtinger (Salzburg '94): at a London dinner with Dr. Thomas and his wife in May, Stella reported that her work as IT manager for Parker Hannifin takes her on many trips to Asia and Europe. Says Stella: "I definitely think that my evenings interacting with the locals in Salzburg helped my ability to do business all over the world!" E-mail sfeichti@parker.com

Deidra Malott (Salzburg '94): Deidra reports that she and her husband have moved from Columbus to Jackson, Mississippi, where she works for a firm that sends her to Columbus most of the time (go figure!). Deidra can be contacted at d\_malott99@hotmail.com

Another Salzburg '94 alum, Chris Schwirian and his wife Jenny are delighted to announce that they recently traveled to Russia (twice!) to adopt a beautiful brother and sister (2 and 4 years old, respectively). Chris is an Instructor of Physiology at OU. E-mail schwiria@ohio.edu

Erin (Fritz) Bush (Salzburg '94) is also a new mother (Emily Kristin Bush, September 14, 2004). Erin teaches at Shanahan Middle School in Columbus. E-mail erin\_busholentangy.k12.oh.us

The most recent future Salzburger arrived June 15/05 to Katy (Siemantel) Drennan (Salzburg 2000) and her husband Aaron. Maddy Christine Drennan can hardly wait to sign up for "Salzburg 2018." E-mail thesiblings@cinci.rr.com

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## Technology and Love: Connections in the Language Lab

The Language Resource Center on the lower level of Gordy Hall employs several very competent student assistants known affectionately as "labbies." Majoring in a variety of disciplines, the labbies help faculty and students daily and, in the process, get to know each other in their command post at the Resource Center. Occasionally, these connections have produced sparks that have had a happy result.

Kristen Seryak and Ed Hosni first met in the lab in 1996 when Ed was a freshman and Kristen was a junior lab supervisor. She and Ed became friends in the lab and reconnected after graduating. In 1998, with a BS in Journalism and a Spanish minor in hand, Kristen moved to the Cleveland area. After graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, Ed began working for the Ford Motor Company in Michigan. An intense long-distance relationship brought the two former labbies together again, and Ed proposed on "bended knee" (according to Kristen) in the fall of September 2000. They were married on a beautiful warm day the following fall and baby labbie Samantha Kate was born in December 2004.

Andrea Smathers and Justin Ryan also met in the lab in 1996. There was initial flirtation, but Andrea was not interested in dating someone two years younger. Undeterred, Justin persisted until February 1998, when they began to date. After Andrea graduated in 1998 (BS, Arts & Sciences), she stayed in Athens until Justin finished in 2000 (BS Communication). Justin took a job with MCI and they both headed for Dallas, Texas. In November 2001 Justin proposed on bended knee to Andrea, and they were married in October 2002. Their daughter, Caelan Meckenzie, was born in January 2004.

Luke Smathers and Elizabeth Kittle met while working in the language lab and started dating in October 2001. Elizabeth went to France in the fall of 2003 to work on her M.A. and Luke moved to Texas to teach high school special education. The following year, they continued their relationship in Bowling Green, Ohio, where Elizabeth completed her M.A. in French and Luke worked in special education. Luke invited Elizabeth to make a nostalgic trip to Athens in April 2005. In the middle of the College Green, Luke proposed on bended knee. (Labbies seem to be quite traditional when it comes to proposing.) They are looking forward to getting married in June 2006.

# Greetings from the LRC Director

The Language Resource Center had another busy and successful year. We try to keep on top of things, and the way technology develops we must constantly hone our skills while trying to bring in the very best in materials and equipment to serve students and faculty.

This year, we secured a grant for long-needed faculty computer upgrades, and we received "technology dollars" from the College of Arts and Sciences to install two fully equipped presentation stations in our audio labs. Teachers now have access to multi-standard DVD and VHS players, a Gateway computer with internet access, additional hookups for those who want to bring in their own laptops, nice speakers, a big screen, and data projectors. Soon each classroom in Gordy Hall will feature a similar presentation station, so that uniform and user-friendly equipment will await instructors and students in their classrooms--ready to go!

As I outlined last year, one of our recent projects involved creating a completely mobile iPod lab. This project is now in its second year and the preliminary results of our surveys show that we are on to something, a paradigmatic shift in the way our students acquire and process language. From requests and inquiries I receive from other institutions it turns out that we are really at the vanguard of mobile computing as a medium for enhanced student engagement.

Another project that Barry Thomas and I have put together involves the use of German poetry as a teaching resource. We created a free web-repository for German teachers featuring sound files, authors' biographies, and activities that engage students in meaningful and personalized communication,



while at the same time encouraging their appreciation of the German language and culture. I am happy to report that the online encyclopedia Wikipedia.de already lists us as one of the indispensable resources under its entry for "Poetry" (Verslehre). (<http://lrc-web.modlang.ohiou.edu/lrc/poetry/>)

As always, new and exciting things are going on in the bowels of Gordy. If you are on campus, please stop by, say "Hello," and we will gladly show you around the Language Resource Center.

With warm regards,  
Jörg Waltje, Associate Professor, Director LRC  
<http://lrc-web.modlang.ohiou.edu/lrc/lab/>

## DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES 2004-2005 CONTRIBUTORS

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Gifts to the Department of Modern Languages provide research and educational opportunities for faculty and students. Your gift, no matter the size, can be designated to help fund travel for students to attend conferences and professional meetings, scholarships, and support for faculty research.

To give to the Department of Modern Languages, please make your check payable to The Ohio University Foundation, and designate the Department of Modern Languages in the memo section of the check. Checks can be sent to the following address: The Ohio University Foundation, P.O. Box 869, Athens, Ohio, 45701. You can also make your secure online gift at [www.ohio.edu/campaign/online.html](http://www.ohio.edu/campaign/online.html) using your Visa, Mastercard or American Express.

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For more information, call or write to Ellen Fultz, Assistant Dean for Development, College of Arts and Sciences, 302 McGuffey Hall, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701, (740) 597-2145, [fultz@ohio.edu](mailto:fultz@ohio.edu).

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

# 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

Email 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
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- \_\_\_\_\_ Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance Fund
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