

Herta Rodina and Annette Steigerwald Receive Awards

Herta Rodina, associate professor of French, is the recipient of the 2007 Jeanette G. Grasselli Brown Faculty Teaching Award in the Humanities in the College of Arts & Sciences. Rodina was recognized for her innovative use of technology and the outstanding evaluations she receives from students.



Annette Steigerwald and Herta Rodina

"In successful classes, everyone learns from each other; I know that I learn as much from teaching my students as they learn from me." This comment expresses Rodina's openness to and respect for students' ideas, a characteristic of her teaching style frequently praised on course evaluations. Rodina integrates instructional technology into classes as varied as the 300-level conversation and composition sequence to advanced courses in literature. She has developed web sites for eight courses, which incorporate links to topics related to class discussions, and she encourages students to comment electronically on each other's work as a supplement to instructor feedback on assignments. At the national level, two of Rodina's courses were selected by the College Board/Educational Policy Center to be used as models for developing high school AP French courses and exams.

The Jeanette G. Grasselli Brown Faculty Teaching Award

in the Humanities is one of three teaching awards in Arts and Sciences Grasselli Brown endowed in acknowledgment of the excellent O.U. professors she had as an undergraduate chemistry major, a field of study that led to her thirty-eight-year career in the research department of Standard Oil (later BP), where she became the highest-ranking female employee. Since the Grasselli Brown Award was established in 1991, seven members of the Department of Modern Languages have received it, more than any other department in the humanities. In addition, eleven of our faculty members have been recipients of the Dean's Outstanding Teacher Award, created in 1982.

Annette Steigerwald, assistant professor of German, was selected for the Distinguished Service Award by the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards at O.U. She was recognized for her outstanding mentoring of students applying for Fulbright Fellowships to Germany and Austria. Under her leadership, five students have been awarded Fulbright Teaching Assistantships to Germany since 2003. During the same period, Steigerwald mentored four students selected for teaching assistantships awarded by the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in cooperation with the Fulbright Commission. She also guided a student through the application process for the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals, for which the student was selected. Steigerwald, who has taught German at O.U. since 1999, was the recipient of a Fulbright Travel Grant from her native Germany when she came to the U.S. to be a teaching assistant at the University of South Carolina. In addition to helping students apply for German-related opportunities, Steigerwald serves on Fulbright interview committees at O.U. for students applying in other disciplines. Although honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award, Steigerwald finds the true reward in working with the students. She commented after receiving the recognition: "It's an absolute joy to see them grow and succeed."

Greetings Friends and Colleagues,

As I write this message, I'm looking out on a clear and bright autumn day sparkling with the reds, greens, and golds for which the campus is famous. I find it easy to understand why Ohio University generates such loyalty from alumni and why graduates return to campus with such regularity. From my vantage point as chair of the Department of Modern Languages, I fully understand why students studying French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish find a home here, both in the sense of comfort and in the sense of preparation for the wider world. The new Learning Community experience, the various conversation hours by language, the multiple foreign film series, the annual graduation luncheon prepared by faculty in honor of and in appreciation for our students and their families, the programs sponsored by our language honor societies, are some of the venues that provide a feeling of center and belonging. International internships, our expanding Foreign Languages in the Elementary Schools (FLES) program, and the faculty-mentored student research projects send our students into the world to make a difference.



Our faculty are engaged in exciting research, we offer a growing number of study abroad opportunities, and we provide inspiring teaching. We are, arguably, the best teaching department in the university based on the number of teaching awards garnered. The number of nationally competitive award winners that our department produces speaks to the quality of the teaching and mentoring, as well as to the excellence of our students. As teachers, we direct our students' gaze both outward--to appreciate the rich diversity represented in the languages, cultures, and literatures we study--and inward--to understand better our own identity and place in the world. We encourage our graduates to continue to stretch the limits of their world as life-long learners, and we are always happy to welcome them back to campus, a place that they can legitimately consider one of their homes.

It is always a true pleasure, but not a mystery, when graduates write thank-you notes or e-mail messages or, better yet, when they stop by the department to renew contact with former professors. The occasional monetary gifts we receive from past students and friends of the department help us fund a number of worthwhile activities, all of them student centered. This generosity is another sign of the mutual good feelings generated by students and faculty. These gifts invariably produce delight and are never taken for granted, but arrive regularly enough that I am no longer surprised by our friends' generosity. Nevertheless, I was surprised and moved twice in the space of this past year by the extraordinary generosity of two benefactors who wished to give back to the department, and particularly to the study abroad programs, in meaningful and significant ways. These two extraordinary gifts established endowments that will continue to enable our students to take part in study abroad programs year after year, even in the face of rising costs. While the donors prefer to remain anonymous, I do want to express publicly on behalf of the department our sincere and heartfelt thanks.

Another recent event inspired my feelings of gratitude this year, as Maureen Weissenrieder announced her forthcoming retirement from her position as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and I reflected on the excellent model she provided. Maureen was chair of the Department of Modern Languages when I was hired in 1996. Shortly after that, she took the position she currently holds and has served the College and the University admirably since then. She incarnates the values of a liberal education and has eloquently championed the importance of learning another language and culture in the development of educated global citizens. Maureen will be returning to the department each spring to teach her popular Spanish linguistics course. We are delighted to welcome her back!

Please do take the time to send us word of your own personal successes so that we may celebrate them with you. We would find it a true pleasure to welcome you back to campus, back home, and share personally with you the enthusiasm we feel for what is happening in the Department of Modern Languages, both inside and outside the classroom.

Sincerely,
Fred

Say There®

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Fred Toner Elected Future President of OFLA

Barry Thomas Receives Special Recognition Award

The Ohio Foreign Language Association (OFLA) is one of the largest and most active state language organizations in the country. Teachers, administrators, and advocates representing many languages engage in activities that promote the study of other cultures and encourage the sharing of teaching techniques at all levels. Leaders of the OFLA play an important role in bringing together language professionals from elementary school through university level to achieve common goals. Members of the Department of Modern Languages at Ohio University have contributed significantly to the success of the OFLA by serving on committees and as officers of the organization.

This year, Fred Toner, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Associate Professor of French, was elected executive vice-president of the OFLA, a position that will lead to the presidency in 2009-10. While teaching at O.U. since 1996 Toner has been involved with the OFLA as Chair of the Articulation and Curriculum Committee and has given conference presentations. As co-director of the Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance he has worked toward bringing together foreign language teachers from elementary school through the university level. Toner is the author of numerous articles on foreign language methodology, contemporary French literature, and civilization. His latest research focuses on the minority voice in contemporary France. The co-author of an intermediate-level French composition textbook, *Notez Bien! Les Contextes de l'Écriture*, Toner enjoys teaching at all levels, from beginning French to graduate seminars. Asked if he is looking forward to taking on the very important leadership role at the state level, Toner replied: "It is an honor to work with dedicated colleagues from across Ohio to promote language study and cultural understanding! It is also a distinct pleasure and an inspiration to take my place behind distinguished past presidents such as Barry Thomas."



Fred Toner and Barry Thomas

Barry Thomas, professor emeritus of German, received a Special Recognition Award at the OFLA annual conference held in March 2007. Thomas's dedication to the profession at many levels was highlighted in the presentation. A teacher of German for 41 years at Ohio University, Thomas directed the Salzburg study abroad program 11 times and served as chair of the Department of Modern Languages for 10 years. Also engaged at the state, regional and national levels, Thomas was president of OFLA in 1992-1993, has been a member of several important committees in the state organization, and served as the board liaison for the American Association of Teachers of German. The OFLA recognized Thomas's contributions with the Outstanding Professional Service Award (1996) and the Outstanding Career Award (2000). He co-founded and served as director of the regional Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance and, at the national level, was awarded the Pioneer in Collaboration Award by the President's Forum on the Teaching of Languages. Looking back on his extensive professional experience, Thomas remarked: "My professional life has been immeasurably enhanced through association with many dedicated colleagues at all levels of language teaching. Whatever success I may have achieved is due in large part to their cooperation and collaboration, and their willingness to go the extra mile in promoting foreign language and cultural studies for new generations of students."

Faculty and Alumni Serve in Leadership Positions at the State Level

Faculty members and alumni of the Department of Modern Languages have been actively involved at the state level for many years. Our teachers and graduates have participated in many activities and support roles that contribute to the success of the OFLA. In addition to Barry Thomas and Fred Toner elected as president, two alumnae have held this prestigious position: Carolyn Andrade (1991-92) and Rita Stroempl (2007-08). Faculty members in our department have served on the OFLA Board in various capacities: Richard Danner, Phil Richardson, Nik Sathe, Barry Thomas, Fred Toner, and Lois Vines. Alumni with service on the Board include Patrice Castillo, Debbie Page, Becky Slisher, Sharon Scinicariello, Barb Schmidt-Rinehart, and Roland Winzer. Jane Rauschenberg has played a major role in OFLA as editor of the organization's excellent newsletter, *The Cardinal*, which is published four times a year.

OFLA awards have recognized our faculty and alumni for their many contributions. The department as a whole received two awards: Outstanding Community Service (1985) and Outstanding Program (1988) in recognition of initiatives and activities that extend beyond the university. Faculty members who have received OFLA awards include Barry Thomas, Outstanding Professional Service, Outstanding Career, and Special Recognition; Phil Richardson, Outstanding Professional Service and Outstanding Career; Barb Reichenbach, Outstanding College Teacher; and Lois Vines, Outstanding Publications and Outstanding College Teacher. Our alumni who have received awards are Roland Winzer, Community Service, and Janet Irvin, Outstanding High School Teacher.

If you have not been mentioned in this article as an alum who has served on the Board or received an OFLA award, we would like to hear from you for our next issue. We are proud of the many contributions our faculty and alumni make beyond Ohio University.

Study Abroad

Avignon, France (Director, Christophe Corbin, assisted by Kristina Maurer)

Twenty of our students spent last Spring Quarter in France, in the city of Avignon. This location allowed students to explore one of France's most fascinating cities (Avignon used to be the center of Christianity in the XIVth century) and most beautiful regions: Provence, in the south of France. Students took 4 to 5 classes at the Université d'Avignon, and some of them had the chance to meet veterans of the French Resistance (from WWII) as part of one of their classes. Excursions and activities included a cooking workshop, visits to Paris, nearby Provençal villages, Marseilles, and canoeing to a Roman aqueduct. Students enjoyed the laid-back atmosphere and distinct culture of the south of France. Applications for this program are accepted in the fall. Information can be found at <http://www.ohio.edu/modlang/french/frenchabroad.cfm>

Ecuador (Director, Anne Porter)

Ten students travelled to Ecuador as part of the Study Abroad program in Spring 2007. They enjoyed living with local families and meeting new friends in Cuenca, our host city in the Andes. The experience included frequent excursions in and around the city and extensive travel throughout most of the country, including one week each spent on the Pacific coast and in the Amazonian rain forest. Seven students opted to extend their stay beyond the official end of the program to travel, spend more time with their Ecuadorian families or complete internships. Next spring participants will celebrate the 10th year of the program.

Martinique (Director, Yolande Helm, assisted by Roger Anderson)

During the winter intersession this past year, I took seven students to Martinique, a French island in the Caribbean. Four were taking my class, and three did internships at the "Martinique Feminist Organization", the Mayor's Office of Fort-de-France, and the Kayak-Adventure-Mangrove. As usual, we went on excursions and, since we were a small group, we saw more! We traveled around the island and visited La Montagne Pelée, l'Habitation Clément, la presqu'île de la Caravelle, rum distilleries, and museums. The students lived with Martinican and Metropolitan families. 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. We also had the great pleasure of receiving another writer and artist as a visitor to our class, Roland Brival. He was really inspiring to the students. 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 Jana Gil and Sarah West)

In Winter 2007, the Programa Mayab took 48 undergraduates to study abroad in Mérida. As in the previous years, we visited Mayan ruins. This year we added a visit to a working hacienda where the students were able to observe the processing of 'henequen'. This educational experience continues to give our students the possibility of practicing their Spanish in an authentic environment in which they are able to negotiate meaning at home with their Mexican family, at school with their teachers, and in the city of Mérida where they make new friends. This year we continued to exchange conversation hours with the Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana that gave our students the opportunity to interact one-on-one with Mexican college students. Drs. Burton and Torres continue to be co-directors. Former students are encouraged to send memories to our webmaster at oumayab@yahoo.com. Check out activities on our web page at www.oumayab.com

Pamplona, Spain (Director, Nelson Hippolyte)

Since 1998, the Pamplona, Spain program has attracted an amazing number of students interested not only in intermediate- and advanced-level Spanish studies, but also in literature, linguistics, Spanish film, and politics. During the past academic year, 55 students studied in Pamplona experiencing the unique opportunity to become well-acquainted with the region's diverse cultural and historical patrimony on different weekend excursions to other important cities. Participants choose to stay one, two or three quarters. Each student lives with a Spanish host family and attends classes on the campus of the Universidad Pública de Navarra. Also, with the dual aim of giving something back to their host city, all students participate in community service activities and interact with the people, gaining a wider perspective of Spanish culture and Spaniards' way of living and thinking. Now our program is in Toledo, another great location declared in 1986 a "World Heritage Site" by UNESCO.

Puerto Rico (Director, Jose Delgado)

For three weeks in November-December 2006, Pepo Delgado led 13 students in the first Winter Intersession program in Puerto Rico. In conjunction with the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras (UPR), where they were housed, the students studied Puerto Rican culture and history, specifically addressing geographical, environmental, political, sociological, culinary and economic issues. To complement class lectures, the program offers weekly field trips to places of historical, social and environmental interest such as old San Juan, the Museum of Puerto Rican Art, the Yunque Rain Forest, the Piones sector, Rio Piedra's public market, the city of Ponce, the Arecibo observatory, and Fajardo's luminescent bay.

Québec City, Canada (Director, Christophe Corbin)

For the fourth consecutive summer, 14 O.U. students went to the Province of Québec to participate in Université Laval's French Foreign Language Intensive Summer Program in Québec City. The first week of the program, the group studied the history of the province, visited local museums, and went to Montréal for a two-day excursion which included a cruise on the Saint-Lawrence River. The five remaining weeks were spent studying French, and for students at the advanced and superior levels, Québec Literature, Cinema and Culture, with students from all over the world. Excursions also included whale watching, white water rafting, and dinner at a local sugar shack. Students enjoyed Québec City's vibrant night life and the hospitality of their host families. Applications for this program are accepted on a rolling basis until it is full (20 participants maximum). Information can be found at <http://www.ohio.edu/modlang/french/frenchabroad.cfm>

Salzburg, Austria (Director, Nikhil Sathe, Assisted by Andrea Herzog)

It normally rains a lot in Salzburg, and there is even a word to describe it: "Schnürlregen." For the twenty participants in the Spring 2007 program in Salzburg, however, this phenomenon will have to remain an obscure vocabulary term, because they were lucky to have warm, sunny, and, yes, dry weather almost the entire quarter. This allowed our students to spend many afternoons in the park at Hellbrunn, swimming in the Salzachsee, and playing soccer. The amazing weather even followed us on our Vienna trip and on our program excursions to Munich and Cologne in Germany. Our excursion to the former concentration camp in Mauthausen was enhanced by our screening of a new film, *Die Fälscher*, about a counterfeiting operation that in part took place there. But perhaps the top highlights of this year's program took place in Salzburg, including our visit to an organic farm, a night at the theater for a dramatization of Schnitzler's *Fräulein Else*, and especially watching a soccer game with the Salzburg Red Bulls, who went on to become national champions. In our second year holding classes at the University of Salzburg we were able to set up a conversation partner exchange with an English class, where the O.U. students met students from Austria and the rest of Europe. To see pictures of the Spring 2007 program and listen to student audio files, please visit the program homepage: <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~sathe/sbg07/>.

German Students Receive Prestigious Awards

Brenton Withers is perhaps unique in the history of undergraduates in the Department of Modern Languages. He graduated in June with majors in German, Spanish, and French along with a minor in Japanese. His passion for languages inspired him to volunteer to teach German in Athens elementary schools, where children often have their first contact with a foreign language. In his senior year, Brent completed the rigorous process of applying for a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship to Germany, which he received in the spring of 2007. During the academic year 2007-08, he is teaching English in public schools in Coesfeld, Germany for twelve hours a week. In addition, he is researching modern film subtitling and translation, a project that will be educational for him and could improve the quality of German films that are subtitled and marketed in the English-speaking world. To continue perfecting his skills in four languages, Brent plans to take advantage of opportunities to teach English in countries offering assistantships, including France, Spain, and Japan.

Two other undergraduate students were awarded Fulbright Teaching Assistantships to Germany, a record number in our department for one year. Helen Hauser is teaching English and studying German soap operas as her Fulbright research project. Daniel Utrata teaches English at a high school in Lemgo while researching how young German males feel about their country's involvement in Afghanistan. Since Germany has a military draft, this experience could affect many young men when they reach the age of eighteen. German major Robert Campbell has received an assistantship to teach English in Austrian secondary schools, awarded by the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in cooperation with the Fulbright Commission.

Our department is very proud of Sharlene Cleveland, a junior German and political science major who was awarded the prestigious German Academic Exchange Service Undergraduate Scholarship to support her study this academic year in Leipzig, Germany. All of her study abroad costs are covered by the funding. She is taking courses and beginning research for her senior thesis dealing with immigration in Germany.

Students in Spanish Honored with Fulbright Fellowships

Proficiency in a foreign language helps candidates for Fulbright awards come out on top in the national competition. Matthew Sanchez, a senior journalism student majoring in advertising management with a minor in Spanish, was selected for a Fulbright to Argentina, where he will teach English while conducting research on advertising related to Argentine basketball. In addition to studying in Mexico, Sanchez earned a certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language at O.U. During his year in Argentina, he will pursue his interests in teaching and sports.

Timothy Lorek will travel to Santiago, Chile, on a Fulbright research scholarship that begins this winter. Lorek double-majored in Spanish and History, minored in Geography, and earned certificates in Latin American Studies and Environmental Studies. His project involves analysis of changes in history education in Chile under different governmental regimes, work which will draw him into the archives of the National Library of Chile. After returning from Chile, Lorek hopes to begin graduate work in Latin American studies in preparation for an academic career in the field.

Mary Jane Kelley Named Fellow in the Ping Institute, Receives Jennings Foundation Grant

Mary Jane Kelley, Associate Professor of Spanish, was selected for the position of Fellow in the Charles J. Ping Institute for the Teaching of the Humanities. Her appointment is for a three-year term, renewable once, beginning spring quarter 2007. With the three named professors, the Fellows participate in activities sponsored by the Ping Institute, such as seminars for university faculty and workshops for high school humanities teachers. Kelley's qualifications for the position include her work in general education, assessment and evaluation, and her activities as co-director of the Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance, which brings together college and high school teachers. This past summer, Kelley created and directed a summer workshop entitled "The History of Art in Spain," which took fifteen high school teachers to Madrid and Bilbao, funded by the Ping Institute. The program, designed to familiarize the teachers with the history of Western art from the Renaissance to the twenty-first century, introduced the participants to artistic analysis and provided them with ideas for enriching their classes with references to art. In support of the project, the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation awarded Kelley a \$6000 grant providing funds for the high school teachers to spend on art books and other materials to use in the classroom. Evaluations of this Ping Institute Summer Workshop expressed the enthusiasm and gratitude of the participants, one of whom remarked, "I truly am a better teacher for having been to Spain! I gained so many new ideas and met such wonderful teachers to collaborate with that I will never be at a loss for how to teach with art."



The group of high school teachers gathers in front of the Prado with Kelley, far right, front row.

David Burton and Arthur Hughes Promoted

Dr. David Burton begins this academic year with the rank of Professor of Spanish after the College of Arts and Sciences, the Provost, the President, and the Board of Trustees endorsed the department's recommendation for his promotion. Burton's sustained contributions to Ohio University and to the profession make him a deserving holder of this new status. Burton's 2005 *Anthology of Medieval Spanish Prose* (Cervantes & Co.) represents the culmination of years of scholarly interaction with early Spanish prose fiction and provides advanced undergraduates in U.S. universities a tool for reading and appreciating Old Spanish. As many of you reading this are aware, Burton has directed the department's study abroad program in Mérida, México for eighteen years with creativity, devotion, and boundless energy. Known affectionately as "Dr. B.," Burton has enthusiastically mentored generations of students both during their academic careers at OU and long after graduation.

The department also successfully recommended Dr. Arthur Hughes for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of Spanish with tenure based on his contributions in research, teaching, and service to Ohio University and to the profession. Hughes's studies of the contemporary Spanish novel have taken innovative approaches using tools such as Queer Theory and theoretical approaches to narrative space. He has placed articles in some of the premier journals of his field. In his classes on recent Spanish narrative, Hughes synthesizes literature and film in order to give students a broader perspective on contemporary issues and their artistic expression. Hughes is currently directing the department's new study abroad program in Toledo, Spain and will return to Athens at the end of the academic year.

First Learning Community Created in Modern Languages

A Learning Community is a group of fall-quarter freshmen who take courses together centered on their academic interests. This fall Lois Vines, Professor of French, created a Learning Community entitled "Foreign Languages and International Connections," which includes nineteen freshmen studying languages at various levels. They are taking the same section of Linguistics 270, "The Nature of Language," and a two-hour weekly seminar that Vines directs. The goal is for new students with common interests to get to know each other in their courses and outside the classroom.

In the seminar students read, discuss and write about language-related topics, such as bilingualism and the English only movement. During the second hour of the seminar, they learn about many international opportunities available to them, including study abroad, the Global Leadership Center, Peace Corps, and Fulbright Fellowships, just to mention a few of the many programs in which O.U. students have participated. By learning about these opportunities early on, students can become, through course work and volunteer activities, outstanding candidates in the future. Each student meets with a conversation partner from another country once a week to learn about the partner's culture and to share experiences dealing with life on the O.U. campus. Vines is enthusiastic about her first experience directing a Learning Community, as expressed in her comment: "I feel privileged to work with a group of students who are passionate about languages and other cultures. These freshmen are articulate, motivated, and interested in what is going on in the world. It's a pleasure to interact with them in the seminar and at social events."

Learning Communities for freshmen began as a concept at O.U. in the fall of 1999 with a pilot project in which students lived in the same residence hall and took classes together. The success of the communities, as measured by retention rates and overall GPAs, has led to the creation of 115 residential and nonresidential communities in the fall of 2007. The Learning Community in Modern Languages is nonresidential, meaning that students live in different dorms but get together in classes and for numerous social activities.

Public Attitudes Towards Foreign Language Changing

The good news is that Americans wish they had taken more foreign language in high school; the bad news is that only 14% of those surveyed in a recent poll by the Scripps Survey Research Center at O.U. had taken four years of language in high school. (From www.actfl.org search "Scripps Howard.")

The poll found Americans to be satisfied with the amount of math and science they had taken in high school: only 36% wished they had taken more math and 41% wished they had taken more science. However, a whopping 62% wished for more foreign language. In addition, 38% of those polled acknowledged the usefulness of high school science in their lives and 51% found high school math useful. In contrast, only 32% found high school foreign language useful. Yet among those who took four years of language, almost half perceived usefulness.

ACTFL's *Foreign Language Annals* recently published another study reflecting positive attitudes towards foreign language: "Current Perceptions and Beliefs Among Incoming College Students Towards Foreign Language Study and Language Requirements" (fall 2006). Authors Joseph Price and Carolyn Gascoigne begin by citing data from the 1970s showing strong feelings against language requirements compared with data from the 1990s clearly demonstrating "overwhelming and enthusiastic support for foreign language study in general, and foreign language requirements in particular" (385). In their study, the authors anticipated a preponderance of career-oriented arguments in support for foreign language study yet found that of the 536 potential benefits students cited from studying foreign language, examples related to increased cultural understanding outnumbered job success arguments 32.46% to 22.76%.

Department of Modern Languages Faculty Receive Teaching and Research Grants

Three new grants will fund Department of Modern Languages faculty projects and enhance the teaching and research missions of Ohio University.

Associate Professor of French Yolande Helm received \$2,500 from the Arts and Sciences Humanities Research Fund for travel to France this summer to interview author/artist/musician Roland Brival. Helm is currently working on a book entitled "Roland Brival: une pensée métisse et une écriture transversale," which will incorporate insights she gained on this trip.

The Undergraduate Learning portion of O.U.'s 1804 Fund has granted Instructor of Spanish Barbara Reichenbach \$20,000 to support her FLES (Foreign Languages in Elementary Schools) program. This effort, now in its eighth year, places O.U. undergraduate language students in local elementary school classrooms, where they provide instruction in the basics of Spanish or French. The 1804 funding covers workbooks for the elementary students, instructional materials for the teachers, and stipends for a coordinator and graduate assistant.

In collaboration with faculty in English, African American Studies, and Anthropology, Associate Professor of Spanish Arthur Hughes received \$24,000 from the 1804 Fund to enhance undergraduate learning through GAP, or Global Awareness Program. For two academic years, GAP will feature four speakers in each of two quarters, who are experts on a particular region of the world. Faculty in various fields will link their courses to GAP each quarter, thus ensuring dialogue across disciplines and broad participation at the lectures.

Our faculty's success in grant writing attests to their creativity and professional commitment to both research and teaching.

Spanish Colloquium Focuses on Central America

In ten springs the Department of Modern Languages had seen ten colloquia, yet none had focused on Central America. The situation had to be remedied. Our 11th Annual Spanish Spring Colloquium, titled "Outlooks on Central America at the Turn of the Century," did just that. On May 17 and 18, a group of experienced scholars gathered on the O.U. campus alongside young and upcoming academics to talk exclusively about Central America.

The panelists represented a variety of disciplines, which created a multidimensional vision of the difficult realities Central America faces or has faced. The audience came away with a deeper sense of Central American history, culture, political systems, economy, environment and art. Our gracious and expert panelists included Jared Bibler and Mickael Elliot (O.U. Latin American Studies), Raúl Molina-Mejía (Long Island U), Hector Perla (O.U. Political Science), Dina López (O.U. Geology), Katherine Hoyt (Nicaragua Network), and Daniel Chávez (U of Virginia).

Chávez is an Ohio University alumnus, having earned the MA in Spanish in 1994 and the MA in International Studies in 1999. After completing his PhD at the University of Michigan in 2002 and teaching at Vassar College, Washington University, and the University of Kentucky, Chávez is now an Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of Virginia. Chávez has published numerous studies of Latin American literature and visual representations of Latin American culture, including TV and film. He is also an accomplished poet, and recently published a collection of poetry titled "*Hasta nuevo aviso.*"



Speakers at the Colloquium from left are Jared Bibler, Hector Perla, Katherine Hoyt, Mickael Elliot, Daniel Chávez and Raúl Molina-Mejía. Missing from the photo is Dina López.

MY FORTY BOBCAT YEARS

by Rich Danner, Professor Emeritus of French

When I left graduate school in 1967 (ABD, two years before defending my doctoral dissertation at Indiana University), the academic world looked rosy to candidates for faculty positions in the humanities. Many of us who were seeking full-time employment had the luxury of considering several attractive offers. Well, I must have been among the luckiest people in Bloomington that year. Why? Because I decided to teach at Ohio University, and in four decades I have never come close to regretting that wise decision. Indeed, merely strolling on this beautiful campus while recalling nice memories of my life here fills me with pride. For the past eight years, as an early retiree, I have lived with my family in New England, but I still return to Athens annually to teach fall-quarter classes at O.U.

The highly favorable description of O.U. that Wally Cameron (then chair of Modern Languages) provided during the on-campus interview turned out to be remarkably accurate. This is a school where students are truly important, where cultural horizons are constantly expanding, and where opportunities for professional growth are limitless. I still smile when remembering that Martha O'Nan generously gave me the chance to teach, during my very first quarter at O.U., a course that she had been planning to offer: The French Novel from *L'Astrée* to Romanticism.

When I reflect on four decades of pleasant classroom experiences in Athens, the evolution of instructional technology comes to mind. Many amazing inventions have greatly facilitated and enhanced our teaching. It is unlikely that even the most nostalgic among us miss reel-to-reel tapes or old-fashioned copy machines (I cannot forget that when running off quizzes I would have ink-stained purple fingers). Although I celebrate high-tech improvements, nothing in my life as an educator has been more valuable than a wide-ranging dialogue (blissfully unadorned by bells and whistles) in which informed, imaginative, striving minds try to make sense of a thought-provoking and well-crafted literary text or work of pictorial art.

From the outset it was clear to me that the Athens campus did not end at the Hocking River. Study abroad was already an important part of our departmental offerings in the 1960s, and that vital tradition continues today, enriched by an array of innovative expansions. Many returning participants have eloquently described in different ways the profound value of improving language skills and becoming more familiar with another culture at the source. I have been fortunate to direct programs in France on four occasions, including once, during the 1969-70 academic year, in collaboration with Bowling Green State University. In fact, my daughter Courtney was born at a clinic across from the cathedral in Tours.

General education has been an essential part of my teaching responsibilities at OU. Taking advantage of the opportunity to develop a Tier 3 course (Irony in Literature and Society) in an NEH-sponsored seminar, directed by Don Borchert, in the summer of 1983, I have taught at least one section of the course every calendar year (with a single exception) since 1986. It is largely because of this welcome interdisciplinary addition to my professorial profile that I consider myself to be a humanities teacher with a special interest in French studies.

Departmental dramatic productions have long been an important extension of the central curriculum in Modern Languages. Although my own involvement in theatrical performance was much less ambitious than that of colleagues in German and Spanish, during my career as a full-time faculty member I did participate (as director or actor) in the staging of works by Sartre, Giraudoux, Rostand, Gide, Molière, and Ionesco. I still vividly recall the fine work that Lynne Huffer, Phil Gordon, and Jenny Cox did more than twenty years ago (under, or perhaps in spite of, my direction) when they recreated the bizarre yet unforgettable world of *La Leçon* in Ellis Hall.

Having taught many courses (in literature, humanities, and French) as an adjunct at schools in New Hampshire, I frequently mention to friends and colleagues in the Granite State my long and happy affiliation with Ohio University and its Department of Modern Languages. A persistent wish, as yet unfulfilled, is to create the conditions for a dialogue between my O.U. seniors and those (of a different kind) who participate in the Rivier Institute for Senior Education (based at Rivier College in Nashua, NH), where I have been facilitating noncredit literature courses each spring since 2001.



Rich Danner taught full-time in the Department of Modern Languages from 1967 to 1999, when he took early retirement. Since 1999, he has returned to O.U. fall quarter to teach French and his Tier III course.

Faculty News

David Burton I was promoted to Professor in the Spring of 2007. In mid-October I am presenting a paper at the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry in Cordoba, Spain. I am also working on a student edition of *Conde Lucanor* to be published next year by Juan de la Cuesta Press. This year marked my seventeenth year as the Director the study abroad program in Merida.

Carole Cloutier In 2007 I published an introduction to linguistic analysis for upper-level Spanish classes: *Introducción al análisis lingüístico-Sintaxis, fonología, dialectología y lingüística histórica*. McGraw-Hill (2007). The book offers fundamental terminology of each of the different subfields of Spanish linguistics, and it also provides the learner with hands-on practice in analyzing linguistic data.

Karen Evans-Romaine spent the last academic year in Russia, as a Fulbright Scholar at Smolny College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, St. Petersburg University. Evans-Romaine taught advanced English listening and conversation, American literature and film, and a modified version of the music and literature course she has taught in the past with Department Chair and Associate Professor of French Fred Toner. The students were terrific, and she enjoyed this "reverse" teaching experience immensely. Evans-Romaine also completed Book Two of the Russian-language textbook *Golosa*, fourth edition, with co-authors Richard Robin and Galina Shatalina of George Washington University. The fourth edition of *Golosa*, Book Two, should be out in August and ready for use in the fall semester. During the summer Evans-Romaine was back in Vermont, working for her fourth summer as Director of the Kathryn Wasserman Davis School of Russian at Middlebury College.

Francesca V. Mignosa was the recipient of the Italian Literary Award entitled "VII Premio Letterario Sicilia Mondo" and was classified first from a global pool with the publication of her piece. The initiative was sponsored by the Italian Government in collaboration with the Sicilian Ministries of Culture, Education and Tourism, which sponsored her trip to Italy this

November to participate in a weeklong series of media and literary events. Mignosa's documentary on Sicilian puppets is included in the archives of the International Museum of Marionettes in Palermo, Sicily. She is now working in Cleveland as a reporter for *La Gazzetta Italiana* and as a media and marketing coordinator for the same publishing group.

Molly Morrison I continue work in the field of medieval Italian saints' lives. In May 2007 I presented my latest research on Catherine of Siena at a Medieval conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Much of my professional energy, however, is devoted to the supervision and coordination of the Italian program. Most of my personal satisfaction comes from working with and mentoring students. Recently one of my undergraduate students published his translations of some of Dante's sonnets in an academic journal.

Betsy Partyka I had a very busy summer with three back-to-back conferences, but managed to take my 9-year-old twins to Paraguay and Argentina during two of the conferences. Both of these presentations dealt with the role fantasy is playing in very contemporary Latin American women's literature. The kids and I decided to get to Argentina from Paraguay by taking a bus and stopping at Iguazú Falls. A very long bus ride! After the conference in Luján, Argentina, we went to Patagonia to see the whales and sea lions. Upon return to the States I participated in the LASA conference in Montreal and presented a paper on the development of Paraguayan children's literature, a new area of study for me and quite interesting.

Barry Thomas Although I am by nature--and contractual obligation--retiring, or more accurately, retired, I have, since teaching my last class in November 2006, been engaged in a number of interesting enterprises. In November, for example, I agreed to take on the chairmanship of the OFLA By-laws committee again; I gather the board needed someone with some institutional memory, and while my memory may be weak I have been around long enough to be called an institution. In February Jean and I spent the month exploring the beaches of

Florida, and then, after I received a "Special Recognition Award" from the OFLA. I flew off with Jean to the canyons and parks of the Southwest, where we had a dam good time (for example, Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam). This summer is once again being spent on my research into the effect of grooved impacters on white dimpled spheres, with special reference to the effects of ambient winds and temperatures. This is an on-going research project which will continue until the first snow falls.

Daniel Torres This year, I published two books: *La poesía en la literatura hispanoamericana* (Madrid: Editorial Pliegos) and *Conversaciones con Aurelia* (San Juan: Isla Negra Editores). The first one is a collection of essays on Hispanic poetry and the second one is a novel about the long tradition of female impersonators in the Caribbean. This summer, I was a visiting professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán in Mexico, where I taught a seminar on Baroque and New Baroque in Latin America. In October, I presented a paper at the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry in Córdoba, Spain.

Jörg Waltje During my Faculty Fellowship Leave in the AY 2006-07 I was able to work on a variety of projects, namely the German "Poetry Portal," a comprehensive online teaching resource for poetry, music, literary biography, and interactive assignments catering to language learners and educators at various levels, and "Project BlackHat," a virtual language immersion environment comparable to a PC adventure game but with a strictly educational focus. Freed from my usual campus routines I was able to hone my technological and analytical skills while at the same time working on materials development and workshops from which not only my colleagues at Ohio University but also the language profession as a whole will profit. Apart from my activities in the realm of instructional technology, I also began work on the translation of the contemporary novel *Zu Weit Draussen* by the German author Johannes Groschupf.

Twelve Students Selected for Assistantships in France

A record number of O.U. students were awarded assistantships by the French Ministry of Education for the 2007-08 academic year. They will teach English twelve hours a week in French public schools, where they will do activities that help their pupils develop oral skills and learn about American culture. While earning 750 euros a month the assistants will be immersed in French language and culture with time to explore their own interests and participate in local activities. Students selected for the assistantships have a major in French or the equivalent. Most of them have taught French as volunteers at elementary schools in Athens and have a Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, offered at O.U. through the Linguistics Department. Lois Vines, who mentors the students through the application process, starting with an information meeting early fall quarter, is pleased that the students have this opportunity: "Most of them have studied abroad but working in the French school system is a unique experience that offers interaction with teachers, students, and parents, quite a different perspective after being students themselves." The assistants selected for this academic year are Tiffany Bics, Jessica Biddlestone, David Boyles, Lindsay Brown, Jamie Golden, Meredith Jensen, Zodiac Maslin-Hahn, Pamela McGough, Megan Murphy, Helen Van Doren, Emily Ann Wagener, and Elizabeth Workman. Congratulations to these O.U. graduates representing the U.S. in France.

Graduate Students Honored With Awards

Martha Broom was selected for the Arts & Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award in French. During the two-year MA program, Martha maintained a 4.0 GPA and taught courses at the second-year level. Her success in both academic classes and in teaching university courses reaffirmed her goal of earning the PhD in preparation for a career at the college level. She is now a doctoral student at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill with full financial support.

Keith Wentz, a second-year MA student from Pennsylvania, received the Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award in Spanish. After various years teaching high school Spanish in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio, Keith entered our MA program and taught first- and second-year Spanish. On course evaluations, Keith's students consistently praise his teaching style with comments such as "makes me want to come to class" and "a wonderful TA; the best I've had from any department." Keith received his MA in June and is currently employed as a Spanish teacher at Lancaster High School.

At the annual banquet in May, the Spanish faculty honored Cecilia Merchán, a second-year MA student from Cuenca, Ecuador, with the Outstanding MA Student in Spanish Award. Cecilia's 3.97 GPA in our program clearly reflects her superior academic performance.

One other Spanish TA received an award for teaching in 2006-07. The Beginning Spanish students of John Allen, a second-year MA student from Morehead, Kentucky, nominated him for the university-wide Outstanding Teaching Award for 2007. A committee of undergraduate students reviews nominations and recognizes four or five graduate associates from programs across campus each year.

Scholarship and Award Recipients

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MARY L. DURNION SCHOLARSHIP

Jennifer Case
Emily Grantham
Kathryn Williams

MARY T. NOSS SCHOLARSHIP

Amanda Catron
Kathleen Flynn
Melania Lavric
Catherine Maynard
Elizabeth Nalepa
Erin Pyles
Lillian Rutana

LASH AND LEETE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Nicole Re
Amy Simpson

MAXINE McCRORY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Tim Brust
Jaime Moore
Elaina Weber

GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD Outstanding Junior French Majors

Jennifer Case
Emily Grantham

GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD Outstanding Graduating Seniors in French

Megan Beck
Matt Burns

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A l u m N E W S

Rita Stroempl (BA French 1975) This past summer, Rita was selected to participate in a Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad Program in Thailand and Viet Nam. The experience was a capstone for her career in language education and administration. Rita remarked: "It was one of the most intriguing, brave, quality-oriented profes-

sional experiences of my three-decade plus years of service." Rita is now teaching at Early College High School in Cleveland.

Debbie Flannery McCorkle (BA French 1984) Debbie was selected from a pool of national applicants to participate in a summer institute entitled "Lyon's

Cultural Heritage: Living the Present in the Shadow of the Past." Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the three-week program was held in Lyon, France. Participants studied the rich cultural heritage, which dates back to Roman times. Debbie teaches French at Unioto High School in Ohio.

A l u m N E W S

Paul Zito (BA German 1985) Paul has been serving for several years now as Managing Director of The State of Ohio European Office in Brussels, Belgium. In a recent e-mail to Professor Barry Thomas Paul reports that he and his family had just returned from a nostalgic trip to Salzburg, where he was a 3-time participant in the Ohio program. "We spent four nights at the Heffterhof and the place was empty except for us. It was pretty wild that we were given the same room that I had in 1982 and 1983." Paul was especially pleased to be able to show his wife and son his favorite sights and sites, including, of course, a meal at Frau Kaisers, which "was excellent. Frau Kaiser was tickled that we came." Paul and his son even conquered the Gaisberg in a strenuous two-hour hike, tough going for a ten-year-old, but as Paul reports: "Once we got to the top [Michael] was mesmerized by the view, the air, the quiet, the achievement of the hike. It was about as perfect a father-son experience as one could ever hope for". Paul can be reached at: paul.zito@skynet.be

Steve Miller (Spanish 1997) About two years ago I joined a Spanish Conversation group here in Chicago called "Charlar Chicago." I was looking for something similar to Spanish Conversation hour in Athens so I could keep up with my Spanish. After about 6 months of attending the group regularly, the organizer moved to Spain and asked me to take over. I am now the organizer of "Charlar Chicago," and there are now more than 700 members. We meet for dinners, happy hours, cultural events and more. We also have a Cine Club that is affiliated with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico. Every two weeks we watch a movie and then discuss it with the faculty at UNAM. The website is www.charlarchicago.com.

Alison Vort Halász (MA French 1999) Alison completed the PhD in French Language and Literature in June 2007 at the University of Pittsburgh, where she was awarded the Elizabeth Baranger

Excellence in Teaching Award. She is now an assistant professor of French at Rhodes College in Memphis.

Brooke Watkins (BA German 2000) In 2002, I received an MFA in fiction writing from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. Since 2001, I've been teaching fiction writing and composition as an adjunct at Brooklyn College and working as an events coordinator for the Wolfe Institute for the Humanities at Brooklyn College. In the winter and spring of 2006 I took classes at the *Deutsches Haus* at New York University and I spent June of 2006 studying German at the Goethe Institute in Berlin. I am currently working on my master's in library science at Pratt Institute in Manhattan. I would love to some day find a use for my German as a librarian/archivist at a museum or research library. bwatkins77@yahoo.com

Franck Dalmas (MA French 2002) Franck received his Ph.D. in French literature from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2007. He accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of French at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, where he is teaching upper-level courses and seminars.

Meredity Momirov Evans (BA Spanish 2002) I got married in May 2006. I continue to use my Spanish skills as an Assistant Editor for the McGraw-Hill Companies World Languages Editorial Department. Our focus is mainly on grades 6-12 materials for French, Spanish and Latin classrooms. I'm glad to hear that the study abroad program in Pamplona is still going strong, as the ten weeks I spent there surely changed my life. Hello to all the Modern Languages staff and best wishes.

Sarah Krivak (BA German 2004) After graduation, Sarah was hired by the German American Chamber of Commerce in New York, where she has managed one of the largest bi-national J-1

trainee/intern visa programs in the country. Sarah remarked: "Had it not been for my German language skills I would not have been considered for the position; after I was hired, I have had plenty of opportunity to speak German."

Giovanna Mignosa (BA French 2005) Giovanna earned multiple degrees from O.U., including an M.A. in Art History and an M.A. in Communication and Multimedia. She is currently working as a contractor at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, where she is a Program Specialist and Project Manager for one of NASA's educational programs

Lisa Swarbrick (BA French 2005) After earning her MA at the University of Chicago, Lisa created her own photo enterprise, "Lisa Swarbrick Photography." She was featured in a recent article (11/9/07) in the *Daily Herald*, a suburban Chicago newspaper. Her business web site is www.lisaswarbrickphotography.com. Lisa earned a degree in Visual Communication at OU along with French.

Jaime Arnold (MA French 2006) Jaime is teaching French at Cheyenne Mountain High School in Colorado Springs. In October 2007 she married Daniel Rice, who received his MA at O.U. in 2004.

Cara DiBlasi Omokolo (MA French 2006) After spending the academic year 2006-07 as an English teaching assistant in Lille, France, Cara returned with her fiancé, Jean-Thierry, to her home in Ohio, where they prepared for their wedding on August 18. The newlyweds now live in Toulon, France, where JT is finishing a Master's degree. Cara is doing volunteer tutoring until she has her official documents to work. You can learn more at <http://caradiblasi.blogspot.com>

Megan Beck (BA French 2007) is working on her MA in French at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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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:

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