

## Great Year for Faculty Awards: National, State, and Ohio University

Fred Toner, Associate Professor of French and Chair of Modern Languages, was selected from a national pool of applicants for a scholarship to participate in a two-week summer institute sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. Participants traveled to Belgium and Switzerland to study various aspects of francophone culture in the two countries. The teachers will share what



Fred Toner and Jörg Waltje

they have learned by preparing pedagogical modules or scholarly articles for publication. After the institute ended on July 13, Toner attended the National AATF Conference in Liège, Belgium, where he presented a session entitled "Connecting with the Environment: The Greening of French."

Jörg Waltje, Associate Professor of German and Director of the Language Resource Center in the Department of Modern Languages, received the "Outstanding Foreign Language Technology Award for 2008," and his session "Language-Learning Tools for the 21st Century" was selected for the "Best of Conference" award at the annual Ohio Foreign Language Association Conference held in Cincinnati in April. In addition to his responsibilities as lab director, Waltje has taught German courses and classes on instructional technology and multimedia in foreign language education. He has traveled abroad to present papers at conferences and has been invited to other schools to help design language labs and facilities.

Nikhil Sathe, Assistant Professor of German, was chosen

for the Distinguished Service Award for 2008 by the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards at Ohio University, which recognizes the outstanding mentoring contributions of faculty members campus-wide each year. Sathe has mentored students applying for teaching assistantships in Austria, six of whom were selected for the year-long experience, and also advised students applying for Fulbright teaching assistantships in Germany. In 2008, five students were awarded the prestigious Fulbright teaching positions. Sathe also assisted winners of grants from the National Security Education Program and from the German Academic Exchange Service. This past spring, Sathe was a finalist for University Professor, the only undergraduate teaching award based on a student selection process.

David Burton, Professor of Spanish and co-director of our winter-quarter program in Merida, Mexico, was selected by the O.U. College of Arts and Sciences to receive the Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor Award for 2008. Burton advises an average of twenty Spanish majors each quarter and spends many hours interviewing applicants for the Merida program, which includes fifty participants. During the quarter in Mexico he mentors students doing internships, teaches classes, and advises students as they learn to live in a different culture. In a support letter for the nomination a student remarked: "Dr. Burton is a professor who truly exists to share his knowledge with others and to open the eyes of students to the wonders of the world."



Nikhil Sathe and David Burton

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We live in exciting, turbulent times! The world economy has been shaken to its core, long standing global conflicts are still seeking resolution while new areas of strife are surfacing. The world's climate is shifting and disastrous storms are hitting at more frequent intervals. And we at Ohio University are making the transition to semesters, a change that some of my colleagues are awaiting with the same level of trepidation as Floridians bracing for the next hurricane. Our own "perfect storm" has a very precise arrival date, Fall 2012. No calls to evacuate are anticipated!



In the midst of all the turbulence, the Department of Modern Languages continues to contribute in significant ways to the university, the state, the nation, and beyond. As the state budget continues to feel the burden of an ever more sluggish economy, we have continued to accomplish more with less. I know that we would all like to say, just once, that we accomplished more with more! But we can take pride in what the faculty, staff, and students have been able to do with very limited resources. You will have the pleasure of reading about some of these accomplishments in the pages of this edition of *Say There*.

The myriad crises mentioned above that assault our peace of mind have a common message: the well-being of our country is closely linked with that of other populations around the world. Just as no man is an island, neither is any country. Isolationism is not only an outdated concept, it is effectively impossible in today's world. A drought, famine, deathly poverty, or ruinous storm in one part of the world sends waves of refugees to other already stressed areas of the globe. Economic interests are so closely intertwined that a recession in Germany, Italy or France can cause lay-offs in the U.S., and vice versa. The ability to communicate in foreign languages and understand other cultures is a necessary tool for success in the 21st century. Knowledge of foreign languages can help us make sense of our increasingly multicultural world, receive and process information more rapidly and accurately, and allow us to play a more constructive and positive role locally and globally. Just as important, it can help us not to be left in the dust of those who do have intercultural skills.

The growing awareness of the utility of foreign languages has helped swell our classes with new students and has increased the number of students applying for our study abroad programs and enrolling as our majors. The students entering the university next year, and graduating in the year we are switching to semesters, will nevertheless still be at a disadvantage in foreign language training compared to their European and Asian counterparts. The majority of the world's university students will have profited from many years of training in multiple foreign languages, from childhood through university, whereas most Ohio students study only one foreign language and rarely start before high school. There are, however, indications that this is about to change. Two panels appointed by the governor, the Foreign Language Advisory Council and the Language Roadmap for the 21st century, have strongly recommended that Ohio establish a K-16 foreign language curriculum. News such as this, coupled with the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students, has us in the Department of Modern Languages singing "Happy Days are Here Again," or, at least, we believe they soon will be.

Please drop us a line to let us know how you are contributing to the chorus. Many thanks to all of you who have helped us reach our goals in the past and who will continue to support us in the future. We look forward to seeing you at our fall reunion.

Best Regards, Fred

### Mark Your Calendars!

### Modern Languages and Study Abroad Reunion October 10, 2009

It has been five years since the Department of Modern Languages and our study abroad programs hosted the last reunion in September 2003. It's time to bring together our alums to celebrate the many successes of our department, especially our study abroad programs. Since the date for O.U. Homecoming will not be announced until next March, we have decided to go ahead and plan our reunion for Saturday, October 10, 2009. If this date coincides with Homecoming, it would be a good idea to reserve a motel room well in advance. Our reunion activities on Saturday will include an afternoon reception in Gordy, a dinner with entertainment in Old Nelson Dining Hall, and after-dinner dancing either in Nelson or Gordy Hall. At our last reunion, prizes were awarded in several categories, including those who had come the greatest distance to attend the reunion, alums with the earliest graduation dates, and the earliest participants in a study abroad program. If you cannot find a motel room as we approach the event, contact the department and we will try to help: [modern.languages@ohio.edu](mailto:modern.languages@ohio.edu). You will receive more information and a response form in spring 2009. For motels in Athens, check the following web site:

<http://www.athensohio.com/whattodo/index.php?page=39>> We look forward to seeing you next fall.

Say There®

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## Two O.U. Alumnae Receive Language Teacher Awards at State Conference

Each year the Ohio Foreign Language Association recognizes the outstanding achievements of language teachers at the high school and college levels. At the spring 2008 conference, two graduates of our department received awards. Deborah McCorkle (B.A. French '84) received the Leona Glenn Award for Outstanding Foreign Language Teacher and Lucia De Santis-Heddleson was selected Outstanding Teacher for Less Commonly Taught Languages.

McCorkle teaches French at Unioto High School, where students who nominated her made a persuasive support statement: "If Mme McCorkle is chosen for this award, you will not have only chosen a great teacher but a role model for all teachers." Her enthusiasm for teaching is constantly renewed through travel, study, and a desire to encourage her students to speak French and share her fascination with francophone cultures. McCorkle participated in a seminar in Cameroon while on a Fulbright-Hays Study Abroad scholarship and was selected for a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for summer study in Lyon, France. While participating in several professional organizations she has presented numerous pedagogical sessions. At the 2008 OFLA conference, her presentation "Découvrons Lyon!" was selected by attendees for an "All Star" award.

Lucia De Santis-Heddleson graduated from OU in 2001 with B.A. degrees in Spanish and French. She intended to work for the FBI, but her M.A. in French at Florida State University in 2003 lured her into teaching. The Ohio Foreign Language Association selected her for the less commonly taught languages award in recognition of her success in initiating an intensive Italian course at St. Edwards High School. In support of her nomination, students praised her energy, innovation, and ability to engage them in speaking Italian. Heddleson also began a non-credit program in Italian at Lorain County Community College, where she is an adjunct faculty member. Outside the classroom, she teaches French, Spanish, and Italian to professionals, opera students, and realtors in her community.

Congratulations to our outstanding alums!

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## Portuguese Classes Return to Our Department after a Long Hiatus

In 1969, Wallace Cameron, chair of the Department of Modern Languages, hired a young faculty member, Robert Vines, who was finishing his Ph.D. in Portuguese at the University of Wisconsin. The O.U. Latin American Studies program needed a Brazilianist to enrich its offerings in language, literature and culture. Five years later, the university experienced a severe financial crisis that resulted in the loss of professors in many disciplines. Vines secured a position in the administration, thanks to his computer expertise, but the Department of Modern Languages lost courses in Portuguese, and Latin American Studies had to continue with an important segment of its program missing for the next twenty-eight years. In 2002, Portuguese language programs were reintroduced as part of a program called "Less Commonly Taught Languages" in the Linguistics Department. Graduate students studied Portuguese under the direction of a teaching assistant from Brazil preparing an MA in Latin American Studies through an international agreement with a university in Belo Horizonte and were tested by an outside evaluator at the end of the term. Although the program catered to Latin American Studies graduate students and was loosely supervised, it showed promise. When the directorship of Latin American Studies changed in 2005 to Betsy Partyka, an Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages, she began closer supervision of the program and realized that with proper coordination, promotion and TA training, it could be strengthened quickly. Within two years, the Portuguese language program was once again back in the Department of Modern Languages, had more than tripled in size, offering three full classes at both the first and second year, had recruited a large number of interested undergraduates, and was now being taught by three trained assistants from Brazil. Designed for students who have had at least three years of Spanish, the Portuguese courses had an enrollment of thirty-five in three sections during the past academic year. The first study abroad program in Brazil successfully completed its pilot project in the summer of 2008 with five participants studying in Belo Horizonte, Santos, and Rio de Janeiro using a five-week intensive communicative approach directed by Partyka, who hopes to continue to expand the Portuguese language program and develop an interdisciplinary Brazilian Studies Certificate in the next five years.

# Study Abroad

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## **Avignon, France (Director, Christophe Corbin, assisted by Katy Adair and Rachel Brennan)**

For the third consecutive year, the "Cité des Papes" played host to 21 Ohio University students during the Spring Quarter term. Avignon proved to be an exciting city not only because it is the gateway to Provence, but also for the backdrop it provided for the students' many classes, excursions and activities. Among the five classes offered at the Université d'Avignon, a new class this year provided a new way to discover Avignon. For 10 weeks students created their own poetry in an "atelier d'écriture" that took them to distinctive locations throughout the city to contemplate their thoughts and surroundings in verse or in prose. Students also participated in a roundtable discussion with members of the French Resistance from World War II. Excursions included an overnight trip to the 2000-year-old Vieux Port in Marseille and hiking in the Calanques along the Mediterranean coast, visits to local Provençal villages, and a tour of the Haribo candy factory...not to mention numerous heated games of pétanque and side trips with their French correspondents. Applications for this program are accepted in the fall. Information can be found on <http://www.ohio.edu/modlang/french/frenchabroad.cfm>.

## **Belo Horizonte, Santos, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Director, Betsy Partyka)**

The Brazilian Culture and Portuguese Language Study Abroad program, which took place for the first time in summer 2008, is a five-week language and cultural immersion program sponsored by Latin American Studies in a partnership with UNA University in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Belo Horizonte, the country's third largest city, offers a pleasant environment and is strategically located only 300 miles from Rio and São Paulo. The three cities have a variety of cultural events, shopping, and food attractions. The program includes classes five times a week and cultural projects and excursions every weekend. The first three weeks are in Belo Horizonte, the fourth in Santos, and the last one in Rio de Janeiro. For information, please contact the director at [partyka@ohio.edu](mailto:partyka@ohio.edu) or [ohio.edu/latinamerican](http://ohio.edu/latinamerican)

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

This was the tenth year for our program in Cuenca, Ecuador. Sixteen students completed the program, taking classes in a new location just a few blocks from the colonial center of the city. Several of our excursions this year were to small indigenous communities, which are using tourism as a means to preserve their heritage while bringing income into the region. These trips allowed students to experience a way of life and traditions very different from our own and to gain some insight into the problems faced by many developing areas of the world. As usual, it was an exciting 10 weeks and has inspired many students to plan for future work and/or travel in Latin America.

## **Mérida, Mexico (Co-Directors, David Burton and Daniel Torres, Assisted by Cali Amos and Jordan Poling)**

In Winter 2008, the Programa Mayab took 48 undergraduates to study abroad in Mérida. As in previous years, we visited the Maya ruins on the Ruta Puuc, Uxmal, Chichén Itzá, and Ek Balam, along with the reserve at Celestún. The education experience continues to give our students multiple opportunities to practice Spanish in an authentic environment. This year the Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana again invited us to visit their Mérida campus where students from their English program and our OU-Mayab students could interact one-on-one. Former students are encouraged to send memories to our webmaster at [oumayab@yahoo.com](mailto:oumayab@yahoo.com).

## **Moscow, Russia (Director, Karen Evans-Romaine)**

In 2008 the Ohio University Spring Quarter in Moscow Program had its largest group of students in over a decade: ten. With our Moscow State University building currently awaiting renovations, this year we held classes in the new building of the Kitaigorodskaya Center for Foreign Language Instruction in a beautiful, quiet old section of Moscow, behind the Don Monastery but still within walking distance to the metro and the center of town. Students took classes in Russian language and culture with Kitaigorodskaya Center faculty and courses in 20th-century Russian literature and Russian Culture since Peter the Great with program director Karen Evans-Romaine. We made out-of-town excursions to St. Petersburg, Vladimir and Suzdal, Abramtsevo and Sergiev Posad, and a new two-day excursion to the Tolstoy Estate and Park at Yasnaya Polyana, three hours south of Moscow.

### **Québec City, Canada (Director, Christophe Corbin)**

2009 marks 400 years of French in North America, and several Ohio University students capitalized on this historic event when they chose to study at the Université de Laval for six weeks this summer during the height of the quadricentennial festivities. During the first week of the intensive program, the students learned of the history of Québec province, then visited Montréal and the St. Lawrence River. Classes were held in French during the remaining five weeks, which included classmates from the world over. Not only did students take advantage of the world-renowned summer music festival, but they also participated in whale-watching, whitewater rafting and a visit to a sugar shack. Applicants are accepted from all majors and at all levels (freshman-senior). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until the program is full. Information is available on <http://www.ohio.edu/modlang/french/frenchabroad.cfm>.

### **Salzburg, Austria (Director, Bärbel Such, assisted by Jonathan Justice)**

Maybe the first of many valuable lessons we learned in Salzburg this past spring was never to leave our umbrellas at home. As much as it rained, all 20 of us should have grown several inches in height. While we still fit through the door frame, we certainly did experience personal, intellectual, and academic growth spurts during our time in Austria. Apart from our rigorous class schedule, we spent many hours exploring the city of Salzburg, marveling at its rich history evident on every street corner, sampling delicious Austrian food, intently and unabashedly listening in on other people's conversations in German and eventually venturing out and participating in those conversations. Three of our weekends were spent traveling together. After program excursions to Munich and Cologne with umbrella overhead, our Vienna trip finally brought the long-awaited sun and allowed for strolls in the opulent park of castle Schönbrunn and along the banks of the Danube. Among this year's highlights was certainly our 40th anniversary party, which brought former participants and faculty to town to help us celebrate the successes of this program (please refer to page 6). To see pictures of the Spring 2008 program, please visit the program website at <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~such/sbg08/>.

### **Toledo, Spain (Director, Arthur Hughes)**

After several months of planning and preparation, the Ohio University study abroad program in Spain changed site from Pamplona to Toledo to partner with Español en Toledo (ESTO), the language institute at La Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha. For 2007-2008, the first year for this new program, 43 students participated in the regular Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters, and 14 students in the Summer session. Apart from the upper-level courses traditionally offered by the Spain program, this year's Summer group included a batch of 200-level in an attempt to broaden our program's appeal as well as take advantage of the infrastructure and support offered by ESTO. With the breathtaking historic city of Toledo as a backdrop, our students had weekly walking tours of the monuments, museums, and cathedrals within the walled city, as well as day-length excursions to Madrid, Segovia, Aranjuez, and El Escorial. Students lived with host families and participated in community-service activities, including teaching English at a language academy and volunteering with the Cruz Roja (Red Cross). The relatively small size of the city provided a comfortable and welcoming environment for our students, and its proximity to Madrid, the center of Spain, allowed them easy access to travel to other regions to learn more about Spain's amazingly diverse culture.

## **New Exchange Program with the University of Salzburg**

When the Department's Study Abroad Program moved its base to the University of Salzburg in 2006, we began to explore ways to strengthen and expand our ties to the University. Meetings in Athens and Salzburg led to a partnership that will take one OU student to Salzburg and bring one Salzburg student to Athens for an academic year. The visiting students will take courses in any field at the host university. The Salzburg student will serve as German tutor for OU students and teach two elementary German courses. In addition, he or she will help promote the spring quarter Study Abroad program in Salzburg. The first exchange student, Simone Pflieger from Linz, Austria, recently completed her MA in English and Biology at the University of Salzburg and is looking forward to teaching German and expanding her doctoral research in biology while in Athens this year.

# Celebration of 40 Years in Salzburg

The Modern Language Department's study abroad connection with Salzburg, Austria began in 1968 as a cooperative venture with Bowling Green State University. In the ensuing forty years the program has taken various forms, but a constant factor and underlying goal has been to provide O.U. students with an opportunity to experience a different culture and language so that they might come to a deeper understanding of their own heritage and of themselves.

The original year-long program was designed for majors and minors with at least two years of college German. Classes were held at the University of Salzburg. Depending on proficiency levels, students took classes from host-country faculty in German, history, geography, education and art history. O.U. sent three directors: Ursula Lawson in 1969-70, Paul Krauss in 1971-72, and Barry Thomas in 1973-74. Unfortunately, by the mid-70's the university, facing serious financial and enrollment problems, had to end its participation in the year-long program.

All was not lost, however. Having already created a quarter program in Karlsruhe, Germany for first-year students in 1973, Ursula Lawson provided a useful model for an intensive quarter program in Salzburg. With help from previous contacts, especially Sigrid Stadler (Institute for Studies in Salzburg), Lawson took the first group of beginning students to Salzburg in the spring of 1975.

From 1975 to 1978 the groups, without a permanent classroom and housing site, lived the life of wandering scholars. Finally, in 1979, Frau Stadler arranged for them to live and learn at the "Heffterhof," which was the program's home until 2006. During these years, the curriculum expanded its offerings to accommodate students from all levels.

After 26 years in the Heffterhof, the program returned to its roots at the University of Salzburg in 2006. In order to give the participants more opportunities to meet fellow students and a greater taste of university life in Austria, classes were held at the Department of English at the university. O.U. students also moved to the Europa Kolleg, a university dorm, where they meet students from all over Europe. These changes have been very successful, and students also enjoy the continuing program traditions, such as weekly excursions in Salzburg and several group trips. The future of the Ohio University/University of Salzburg link looks even brighter with the creation of an exchange partnership and a recently established endowed scholarship.



Bärbel Such, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Kathy Krendl, Nikhil Sathe

This year marked the 40th anniversary of the O.U. study abroad program in Salzburg. The celebration of this milestone brought together nearly fifty former and current instructors, friends, and students, including several program alumni who were completing a year abroad on Fulbrights and other grants. The special guest was O.U. Provost and Executive Vice President, Kathy Krendl, who has now been immortalized in a verse in Barry Thomas's poem celebrating the occasion.

... We've come over this year to help celebrate  
This most auspicious, forty-year date  
Of OU in Salzburg since '68.  
Nik and Bärbel and Provost Krendl  
At the "Wilder Mann" enjoy Schnitzel and "Hendl"  
With students and faculty, present and past,  
Toasting the program: "Long may it last!"

# Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance Celebrates 25 Years

In the early 1980s, a professor of French at the University of Pennsylvania, Claire Gaudiani, posed a seemingly simple and, as some suggested, naïve question: "Wouldn't it be nice if high school and college foreign language teachers talked with each other?" The question inspired a major national project called "Strengthening the Humanities through Foreign Language and Literature Studies." From a pilot project of three collaborative groups in 1981, the concept grew to include 86 groups of high school and college teachers throughout the country. The Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance (OVFLA), which serves a large rural area of central and southeastern Ohio from its base in the Department of Modern Languages at Ohio University, was created in 1983 and has continued to bring together teachers to share ideas and experiences for the past 25 years. Barry Thomas and Lois Vines, who were on the committee that founded OVFLA, turned the leadership over to Fred Toner and Mary Jane Kelley, who have organized the fall meeting for the past five years. Several of the teachers are OU alums and enjoy returning to their alma mater for inspiration and sharing ideas. Happy Anniversary, OVFLA!

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## Abelardo Moncayo Retires; Amado Láscar Tenured

Two Spanish faculty reached career milestones last spring. Associate Professor Abelardo Moncayo Andrade retired after 38 years of service to the department, and Amado Láscar was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in his sixth year as our colleague.

Abelardo Moncayo Andrade inspired several generations of OU Spanish majors, minors and graduate students in his classes on Golden Age Spanish literature. A hallmark of his teaching style, most evident in his classes on the *comedia*, was Moncayo's ability to connect literature to real life through anecdotes that both amused and enlightened his students. A life-long scholar of Cervantes's *El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha*, Moncayo's Quijote classes modeled for students a wonderful synergy between teaching and research. Colleagues will miss Moncayo's calmly delivered wisdom at faculty meetings and his generous smile in the mailroom.

Amado Láscar came to OU in 2002 from the University of Oregon, where he completed his PhD in Latin American Literature. Láscar brings to the classroom a passion for enlightening students regarding injustice, dissidence and power in Latin America, and on course evaluations students consistently recognize the value of such a new perspective on the world. Láscar's research on nineteenth-century Latin America has led to two books: an edition of *Mariluán: un drama en el campo* and *Lo chileno en tierra mapuche*. During his time at OU, Láscar has also published articles, poetry, original narrative and documentary films. Láscar's colleagues and students look forward to continued collaboration over coffee in the Front Room.

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## New Tenure-Track Faculty Member in German

The Department of Modern Languages is pleased to welcome Bärbel Such to the faculty. A native of Lehrte, Germany, Such completed her PhD in German at the University of Cincinnati with a dissertation on the author Alfred Gong. From this research, she has gone on to edit and publish a critical edition of two of Gong's dramas. After visiting positions at Ohio University and John Carroll University, Such returned to Athens in the fall of 2007 as Assistant Professor of German.

Such had a full plate during her first year. In addition to mentoring graduating seniors applying for Fulbright grants, she taught her popular Business German course and a seminar on Holocaust literature, which allowed her to tap into her expertise in the field of Holocaust and Exile studies. During Spring Quarter, she directed the annual Study Abroad Program in Salzburg, Austria and gave another group of OU students the time of their lives. She and her students had the special privilege of hosting the program's 40th Anniversary celebration.

Whether as Study Abroad Program Director or as teacher of courses from introductory German to upper-division seminars, Such enjoys a reputation of being challenging and demanding, yet fun and inspiring. Her students have even created a Facebook group about her, entitled "Bärbel macht uns froh" (Bärbel makes us happy). If this past year is any indication, this Facebook group will surely increase its membership in the future.

## Spanish Faculty/Student Recognized

Two Spanish Faculty, Amado Láscar and Amanda Nolacea Harris, and one of our Spanish majors, Brittany Benton, received the Social Justice Award for 2008 from the United Campus Ministries: Center for Spiritual Growth and Social Justice. The three were honored at the annual Social Justice Celebration, Wednesday, April 9, 2008. With this award, the UCM recognizes efforts to promote diversity and racial justice at Ohio University. Láscar, Benton and Harris have demonstrated their commitment to advancing social justice by increasing awareness of incidents of racially motivated aggression and prejudice here on campus. Through open discussion, public demonstration, and targeted media exposure, the three have created a more aware, sensitive and conscious campus community.

## Annual Spanish Literary Festival Becomes Important Conference

This year's 12th Annual Spanish Literary Festival took on a different look as part of the 7th Annual Latin Americanist Conference formerly held at Ohio State University. The all-day event was held on March 1st and was followed by a Latin Jazz Dance night in the Walter Rotunda. The luncheon banquet featured a talk by Cuban literary analyst Eliana Rivero. The program included more than 75 presenters who shared their research on such topics as geography, literature, health, economics, and education. Hosting the event on campus offered a great opportunity for OU students and faculty from all departments with an interest in Latin American topics to gather and discuss. Nearly 40 OU students and alumni presented, and a dozen faculty members from various departments gave presentations and moderated sessions. The conference was such a success that it will be expanded to two days, February 27-28, 2009, and will be hosted again on campus in 2010. If you have an interesting topic, please submit your abstract in the next couple of months and come back to OU for an academic visit. (Submit abstracts to: partyka@ohio.edu or ohio.edu/latinamerican)

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## Undergraduate Research Project Leads to Unexpected Connections

Katie Flynn (BA '08), a French and history major, studied in Avignon spring quarter 2007 with our department's program. The director, Christophe Corbin, teaches a course on the French Resistance and arranges for the students to meet former members of the Resistance still living in the Avignon region. Fascinated by the oral history of these individuals, Katie wanted to return to France to interview the female Resisters to learn more about their contributions, which are not often included in descriptions of Resistance history. Thanks to the Provost's Undergraduate Research Fund at O.U., Katie was able to return to France in December 2007 to pursue her goal of learning more about how females contributed to the resistance against Nazi oppression. After she had returned with her recorded interviews, Katie's project was featured in a local newspaper in Dayton, her hometown. In the article, Katie mentioned a Resistance member named Garcin. A woman in Dayton who read the article, Kay Nelson, called Katie to say that her husband, a pilot, was rescued by members of the French Resistance after being shot down in the Avignon region during WWII. Kay recognized the name Garcin.

Katie went to Kay's house for more discussion and discovered that the man who protected Kay's husband was Raymond Mayan, a Frenchman who is alive and well, still living in the Avignon region. Kay and her husband corresponded with him after the war and Katie was able to read many of the letters from France. Kay and her husband Al traveled to France in 1977 to reunite with Raymond and his family. Al died in 1984. Kay and Katie have talked for hours, Kay reliving the wonderful human experience, and Katie learning more about a difficult time in French history.

Katie has returned to France for the 2008-2009 academic year on a French Government Teaching Assistantship and plans to continue her interviews with Raymond Mayan and other former members of the French Resistance.



## About those last 40 years...

Since I retired in 1999, I have had a wonderful time: traveling, writing short stories, attending writing workshops and reading, reading, reading. I won't say I don't miss work, but I've found many other things to enjoy. I have written over one hundred short stories and published about twenty (in small journals and online). I belong to a local writing group. In addition, every year Joyce and I attend a week-long writing workshop at Wildacres, North Carolina. I am currently working on a mystery novel which I hope to finish by the end of the year.

About those last 40-some years, however, I think I was privileged to have one of the best jobs one could hope for. I worked with intelligent and interesting colleagues, met many friends and students, and I got paid for it.



Phil Richardson (Mr. R)

My voyage to Athens and Ohio University began when I was in the Navy. My ship, the USS Nespelen, was sent to the Antarctic, and I needed something to do during our weeks at sea, so I signed up for an OU correspondence course in German. After my discharge from the Navy, I enrolled full-time at OU in the fall of 1957. I never left.

After earning my M.A. and teaching German for a year, I agreed to temporarily take over the Ellis Hall Language Lab when the previous director resigned. Somehow I forgot it was temporary. Originally there were three labs in Ellis, but with expanding enrollment in the 1960s we increased to five labs and added more staff. Charlene Bebout was my first secretary, but "Mama Ruth" Savage stayed in the job the longest, a real tribute to her sense of humor and patience. Another person some may remember was John Thompson, our technician who was famous for his Christmas punch, which made the lab a merry place indeed.

We had some unique events in the Language Lab in Ellis Hall. One Sunday afternoon, a deer broke through the window of Lab C, bounced around on the carrels, and then exited through the same window. Another weird happening occurred early one summer morning when one of the labbies complained about a terrible smell in Lab A. After searching all over the lab, she found a very dead alligator inside the frame of one of the booths. In all these years, no one has ever admitted to that prank.

There are so many names of "labbies" that I could never mention them all, but some were doing fascinating jobs like matching types of tape to rebulk and duplicating, duplicating, duplicating. Some labbies who were there for several years, however, included Barry Wallis, Penni Rich, Roberta Whitmore, Michael "Spike" Hunter, and Cheryl Nisely. This list could go on and on.

When Language Fair started, there were some among the faculty who doubted if we could pull it off, but with a lot of cooperation from the whole department it became a success. The lab served as a central organizing place for the Fair and over the years it just grew and grew. The first year we had 300 students, and I can never forget the expression on Barry Thomas's face when all those students and their projects arrived at Baker Center (the old one). We also had a small problem at lunchtime. Lois Vines had organized lunch for the students in a Baker Center dining room, but when she checked on the room, it was occupied by the football staff, and it took a while to get that straightened out. At its height, the Fair had 3,000 students and we had to relocate to the Convocation Center. Who would have thought!

Language Camp started the same year as the Fair, and I was able to cajole faculty members, friends and graduate students to help staff the Camp. Patty Patten did an outstanding job as head of the German Camp and as MC for the closing ceremony at several Language Fairs, when the exciting moment came to award the prizes. Dominique Duvert, Maureen Weissenrieder, Sharon (Guinn) Scinicariello, Mark Nutter, Janie Duncan, Susan Sommers, and Colleen (Crawford) Dillon were some of the French and Spanish directors. One director said that one of their most difficult jobs was calming me down. I don't think I was that hyper, but many seemed to agree on this.

I sincerely enjoyed teaching the Methods Class and the Language Lab class. There was this one student, however, named "Burt" who always seemed to cause trouble. Some of you who were in those classes may remember him. When the department moved to Gordy Hall from Ellis Hall, it was stressful for all of us, but the end result was a vast improvement. I'm sure Wendy and Greg can attest that I was about 3 feet off the floor most of the time preparing for this major change. I am proud of what we accomplished and honored that the new facility was named the "Charles (Phil) Richardson Language Resource Center."

I hope to see many of you at the next Modern Language Alumni gathering, and I'd really appreciate hearing from you at philrichardson@me.com. Best of luck to you all!

"Mr. R"

# Faculty News

**David Burton** The student edition of *El Conde Lucanor* that I prepared for Cervantes & Co., an imprint of Juan de la Cuesta in Newark, Delaware, was published in late Spring. In May I presented "Mary Magdalen: A Saint for Sinners in Medieval Spain" as part of the Arts & Sciences New Professor Lecture Series. I received the A&S Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor Award in early September. Winter 2008 marked my eighteenth year as director of the Mérida study abroad program.

**José Delgado-Costa** Long time no "here." Bad joke. Alejo is a Junior at UC. Electronic Media is his thing. Moi? Last academic year? Well, hear...Six Thesis Committees (two PhD, three MA, one McNair), co-organized Latin Americanist Conference, presented at two others (UVA & UC), Middlebury in summer, and published two short stories.

**Karen Evans-Romaine** Associate Professor of Russian Karen Evans-Romaine led the biannual Ohio University Spring Quarter in Moscow program for her sixth time, making this her tenth anniversary with the program. While in Moscow she received the published version of her article on a reference to Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* in Boris Pasternak's novel *Doctor Zhivago* and submitted an article on poetic correspondence between Pasternak and Marina Tsvetaeva. She also attended a conference at the Russian State University for the Humanities. During the summer she directed the Davis School of Russian at Middlebury College in Vermont for the fifth time. As always, at OU she taught first-year Russian, nineteenth-century Russian literature in translation, and Field Studies, and she chatted with students at the weekly Russian conversation hour.

**Tom Franz** In February I delivered two lectures at Miami University, the first on contemporary views of two novels of Galdós and Baroja, the second on the presence of Emilia Pardo Bazán as a hidden character in a later novel of Galdós. I also had a number of articles accepted and continued work on my book on Antonio Machado. In June and July I did research at a provincial archives in Burgos, Spain. After this I traveled through La Rioja, which, along with working in a monasterial archives, was a pure delight. Our family did its usual skiing in the winter months, and we made a trip to visit a granddaughter in Wisconsin in late March. I will be on Faculty Fellowship leave in winter of 2009.

**Yolande Helm** This past year, I revamped my courses, especially the FR 355 (Introduction to Literature) where I present XXIst Century literature from around the French speaking world. My students really enjoyed a novel by Anna Gavalda, *Je voudrais que quelqu'un m'attende quelque part*. I continue to teach my courses on African, Quebec, Caribbean literature and try to include short stories and short novels from those countries in my 300-level courses. I recently had two interviews accepted for publications, one with Roland Brival ([www.grioo.com](http://www.grioo.com)) and one with Suzanne Dracius (forthcoming). I am also in the final stage of writing two books; "Roland Brival: une pensée métisse et une écriture transversale" and *Métissages et Marronnages dans l'oeuvre de Suzanne Dracius*" (P'Harmattan, 2009).

**Betsy Partyka** This summer I directed the first Portuguese Language and Culture study abroad program in Brazil for 5 weeks. We all attained a pretty high level of language skills by the time we finished. Following the program I gave a paper in Spanish at an annual literary conference in Porto Alegre and

read another in Portuguese. My son came with me this year and was inundated with Portuguese for 6 weeks.

**Herta Rodina** My recent interests focus on using instructional technology to improve writing skills in upper-level language classes. Aside from tests, all my courses are now paperless. Because this field is constantly changing, I'm always acquiring new skills, which is both exciting and challenging. An article outlining the techniques I've developed for instructor evaluation and peer editing of electronically submitted assignments appeared in the October 2008 issue of *The French Review*.

**Nikhil Sathe** My efforts were directed at establishing a Salzburg scholarship and partnership with the Universität Salzburg. I have presented papers at numerous conferences. My article on Austrian cinema will appear in an upcoming collection, and I co-authored an article on I-pods in language teaching. This fall I will become president of the Ohio Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German.

**Daniel Torres** This year, I published two book reviews and five articles. I presented my novel *Conversaciones con Aurelia* in Puerto Rico, Mexico, and at the International Book Fair in the Dominican Republic. This summer, I went to Puebla, Mexico, to the conference of the Instituto Iberoamericana where I presented a paper on my research about the construction of a Creole identity within the poetry of Don Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora. Two anthologies and a journal included my poetry: *Los otros cuerpos* (San Juan), *Mariposas: An Anthology of Queer Latino Poetry* (New York), and *El cuervo* (UPR, Aguadilla).

## Record Number of O.U. Students Receive Teaching Assistantships in France

Last year we reported that twelve students (a record) were selected by the French Government to teach English in France. This year, another record has been set with fourteen students awarded assistantships to teach English in French public schools during the 2008-09 academic year. The assistants will earn a stipend while working twelve hours a week in primary schools through high school, depending on their preference. The goals of the program are for young French students to practice English orally by interacting with anglophone assistants and to learn about their cultures. The Americans have a unique opportunity to get to know French culture through the schools, where they interact with colleagues, students, and parents. The OU assistants will also have time to discover many areas of France and Europe. Two students who spent last year teaching in France, Megan Murphy and Helen Van Doren, enjoyed their teaching experience so much that they have returned to OU to prepare the MA while teaching French to American undergraduates. Their experience in France helped them perfect their French and provided a great deal of cultural knowledge to share with their students.

## Endowed Scholarship in German Created

As the expense of higher education and the cost of travel rise sharply, a group of engaged students in the German Club and Delta Phi Alpha began raising funds in 2006 for a need-based scholarship for students in the Salzburg Study Abroad Program. Thanks to generous donations and the students' initiative selling candy, four scholarships for the 2007 and 2008 programs were provided. While fundraising efforts were successful, more consistent financial support would most effectively ensure that students will have the opportunity for a rewarding experience abroad. To that end, an endowed scholarship with the OU Foundation has been created which will guarantee funding on a yearly basis, once the required \$15,000 has been raised. Your contribution in any amount will help realize this goal and will be very much appreciated. For more information, please visit the website: <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~sathe/salzburg/>

## New Study Abroad Scholarship for Romance Languages

Sue and Charles (Chuck) Glander have endowed a scholarship for students in Romance languages because of their great enjoyment during experiences abroad. Their belief in life-long learning through study and travel inspired them to make this generous donation to Ohio University, where Sue earned her MA in French in 1995. During the following eight years, she taught French at the OU branch campus in Lancaster. The Department of Modern Languages has several study abroad programs in French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese whose participants will be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

## Scholarship and Award Recipients

### URSULA FEER FARFEL SCHOLARSHIP

Caitlin Yocco

### MARY L. DURNION SCHOLARSHIP

Amanda Catron  
Catherine Maynard  
Nicole Re

### MARY T. NOSS SCHOLARSHIP

Elizabeth Berardi      Meghan Devine  
Jared McCathren      Elizabeth Nalepa  
Emily Shoemaker      Carolyn White  
Katie Williams

### SUE AND CHARLES GLANDER STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

Nicole Re  
Caitlin Yocco

### RICHARD AND DOLORES KIRBY STUDY ABROAD FUND

Amanda Catron  
Grace Stout

### STUDY ABROAD IN FRANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Erin Crane  
Kristina Hauptmann

### MAXINE McCRORY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Adjin Clevenger  
Ericha Franke  
Gildy Smith

### GERMAN STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

Seth Trammel      Diana Hujcij  
Morgan Chaney      Learose Pinkham

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

Emily Shoemaker  
Carolyn White  
Katie Williams

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

Jennifer Case  
Emily Grantham  
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Noelia Pacheco - Spanish

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## A l u m N E W S

Richard J. Koerner (BA French 1973; MA French 1975) Recently "preretired" after a 30-year career at New Trier High School in Winnetka, IL, one of the top

public schools in the nation. He taught all years and levels of French and instituted a reciprocal study exchange between New Trier and a sister school in

Strasbourg, France. Koerner now devotes his time to working for ASC Direct Inc., one of the top three language lab companies in the U.S., in pedagogical customer

support.

**Mary Kay Nylund Koerner (MA German 1975)** As the department chair of languages at Lake Forest High School in Lake Forest, IL, she also teaches two upper-level classes in German. Married for 32 years, she and Richard Koerner are the parents of three sons, two of whom are also OU graduates, Richard (2004) and Michael (2007).

**Betsy Sandlin (MA Spanish 1997)** In her fourth year as Assistant Professor of Spanish at Sewanee, The University of the South, Sandlin is also a new mom. Her daughter, Eliza Rhea Griffey (father is Jason Griffey, Philosophy MA program at OU 1995-97), was born on December 15, 2007. Mom reports that the baby is beautiful and can't wait to make her first trip to Athens!

**Sean Walton (French 1999)** Married, living on a farm in Pomeroy, Ohio. Currently at Toyota Motor Manufacturing of West Virginia for 3 years. We travel whenever possible!

**Aaron Kahn (BSED English; BA Spanish 2000)** Just published his dissertation in book form as: *The Ambivalence of Imperial Discourse. Cervantes's La*

*Numancia within the 'Lost Generation' of Spanish Drama (1570-90)* with Peter Lang. He also has a tenure-track position in Spanish at the University of Sussex in Brighton. He is teaching Translation and Interpretation, and giving lectures on Dystopian Cinema, French Theatre of the Absurd, the Spanish Civil War and the Short Story.

**Corrie Ferryman McDonald (BSED Spanish 2001)** is currently teaching Spanish levels 2-4 at Kenton Ridge High School in Springfield, OH. In her seventh year of teaching, she still loves every aspect of it and completed her Masters of Education through Wright State University in 2006. Trips with her students to Hispanic countries, including Spain (three times) and Costa Rica, have enriched her teaching experience.

**Maria Rachelle Davila (BA Spanish 2003)** The Executive Director of the Clark-Metro Development Corporation, in one of the most ethnically diverse service areas in the state of Ohio, she uses her Spanish skills on a daily basis.

**Charles Collins (MA French 2003)** Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel this past summer, Charles has begun his second

year as Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

**Martha Broom (BA French 2005; MA French 2007)** completed her undergraduate work in French and her Master's in French literature at Ohio University after living and working for 12 years in Geneva Switzerland and 1 year in Paris in fine fragrance marketing and development and also in strategic planning for an international advertising agency. Martha is now finishing up her PhD at the University of North Carolina on "Identity and the Imaginary: Creating spaces of reconciliation between the Self and the Other" in 20th and 21st century French and "francophone" literature by writers who are between at least 2 cultures. Her particular interests are WWII and the Algerian question, memory and theater. She is teaching advanced level French grammar and reading classes to undergraduates at UNC this year and will soon be teaching, Fall '09, the UNC Introduction to French Literature course. Additionally, she works one afternoon a week leading a French immersion after school program at the International Montessori School in Durham with younger children aged 8-12. [philosophermb@gmail.com](mailto:philosophermb@gmail.com)

## Recent German Alums Teaching in Europe and Studying in Graduate Programs

In recent years, graduates in German have been receiving numerous national awards, but this past year they had a banner year, winning research grants and teaching assistantships in Europe. Kim Vandegrift (2008) was awarded a research grant from the Fulbright Program to study music history in Germany. Numerous students applied for Teaching Assistantships in Germany and Austria, and several received awards in both countries and had to choose. In 2008, three students (Chris Bruce, Jonathan Justice, and Chrissy Madjar, all 2008) accepted Teaching Assistantships in Germany that are from the Fulbright Program / Pädagogischer Austauschdienst (German Pedagogical Exchange). Four students (Elizabeth Andersen, Diana Hujiej, Ryan Smith, and Seth Trammel, all 2008) accepted Assistantships in Austria from the Austrian-American Educational Commission / Fulbright Commission, where they join Robert Campbell (07), who is enjoying his second year. The programs in Germany and Austria each have American students serve as a teaching assistant at a secondary school, where they help teach English classes. A number of other alumni of the German section are enrolled in graduate programs. After completing Teaching Assistantships in Germany, Helen Hauser and Brenton Withers (both 2007) are starting graduate programs, respectively, at Ohio State University (German) and the University of Münster (Cultural Studies). Sarah Knuckles (2006) is completing the MA program (German) at the University of Cincinnati, and Erich Bachmann (2007) is entering the MEd program at the University of Chicago. Jack Nettis and Nick Goode (both 2008) have also started graduate studies in math and business at OU.

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We apologize if your name is missing from this list. If you contributed during this time period and were not listed, please contact Jan Harmon: [harmonj@ohio.edu](mailto:harmonj@ohio.edu). Thank you.

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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.

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For more information, call or write to

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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
- \_\_\_\_\_ French Language Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ French Study Abroad in France
- \_\_\_\_\_ German Language Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Italian Language Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Russian Language Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish Language Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Language Lab Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cameron-Portales Fund (Mexico study abroad)
- \_\_\_\_\_ M.A. Serna-Maytorena Memorial Scholarship Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Krauss Memorial Fund (Austria study abroad)

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