

# Say There



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The Department of Modern Languages

Newsletter Fall 2009

## FORMER DENIZENS OF ELLIS AND GORDY HALLS RETURN TO CAMPUS!

Contrary to Thomas Wolfe's claim that "you can't go home again," a contingent of former students returned to their academic "home" on October 10 to join active and retired faculty and several guests from abroad to celebrate the Third DML Alum/Study Abroad Reunion. During the pre-dinner reception in Gordy we were able to indulge in a Proustian "Remembrance of Things Past" while at the same time going "back to the future" to catch up on the intervening years in our alums' post-OU lives. Those who had not been back to campus recently had the pleasure of discovering the new Baker Center, located on the hillside just down the street from Gordy Hall. In addition to a large food court, many meeting



Alumni, faculty, and staff enjoy conversation and refreshments in Gordy Hall.

rooms, a ballroom, and a new version of the Front Room with a fireplace, the facility is proud to lay claim to the only escalators in Athens County!

The dinner in Nelson Commons was a festive affair. Before the meal Betsy Partyka, chair of the department, provided a description of the many international programs the DML is involved in. With dessert Mary Jane Kelley provided a witty and entertaining commentary during the presentation of prizes awarded to alums in several categories, including the earliest grad (1951!) and the most recent (2006). Thanks to alum Jonathan Leal for donating his delicious *Vino de Milo* sauces for prizes.

After the delicious meal, alums and faculty returned to Gordy Hall to continue celebrating and reminiscing, and, following the lead of Daniel "Fred Astaire" Torres, some light-footed dancing.

Judging by the level of enthusiasm and "Gemütlichkeit" the reunion was a success and much appreciated by the returning alums. A big thank-you goes to Jan Harmon, Departmental Administrator, for assuring that everything went smoothly. We are already looking forward to the next reunion in 2014.

More pictures and information can be found at the departmental website:

<http://www.ohio.edu:80/modlang/index.cfm>



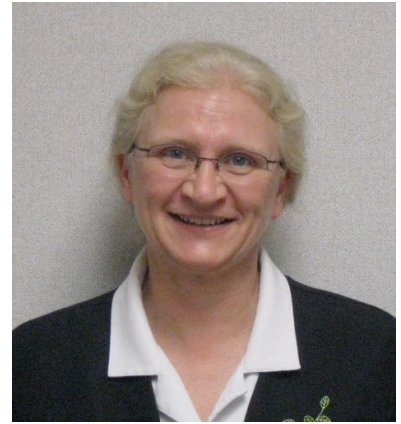
Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to the latest edition of *Say There* as we begin another decade in the long and wonderful history of the Ohio University Department of Modern Languages. I would like to begin this letter from the chair with a warm thank you to Fred Toner, who chaired our department for the last eight years. With Fred's careful and attentive nurturing, we have had many prosperous years that have promoted our cause across the campus, the nation and the world. Every year our study abroad programs have grown, our faculty has become stronger and our prestige on campus has increased.

As I come aboard as the new chair of the Department of Modern Languages, I hope to follow Fred Toner's strong lead in continuing the goals and standards of our department. Some of the preliminary goals I have set for the next few years include enhancing our visibility on campus and abroad, creating new study abroad programs to meet the demands of our students, and strengthening the body of core faculty members. To this end we are working on a new website for the DML, have already created a new study abroad program in Brazil, and will soon be welcoming a new tenure-track Spanish linguistics faculty member. In addition, we are working on some new programs, including a Russian Studies Certificate and a Caribbean Studies Certificate.

We enjoyed seeing our alums at the Fall 2009 reunion and thank you for your support throughout the year. We are looking forward to a very exciting, though budgetarily challenging year, and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Betsy Partyka



Greetings!

The editors of *Say There* have offered me this opportunity to say a final word and to symbolically pass the torch to our new chair. Many thanks to all of you for your faithful support of our department, and special thanks to faculty and students who helped make my eight-year tenure as chair one of the richest learning experiences I have ever had. It is truly an honor to be in contact with you, and to have represented our department and our university.

Instead of ceding to the strong temptation of installing myself in my favorite rocking chair after stepping down from being chair, I have been serving my term as the 2009-2010 president of the Ohio Foreign Language Association. This has been an exciting year thus far interacting with some amazing colleagues in the state.

Finally, it is my pleasure to welcome my friend and colleague, Betsy Partyka, as the new chair. I cannot think of a more deserving or qualified person to lead us in these challenging times. She will be a strong advocate for our department and will continue to inspire us by her example.

All Best Wishes,  
Fred Toner



Say There®

Layout Designer:  
Mike Dombroski  
Proofreader:  
Richard Danner

Editors:  
Mary Jane Kelley  
Barry Thomas  
Lois Vines

Founding Editor:  
Phil Richardson

## DELGADO RECEIVES GRASSELLI TEACHING AWARD

The College of Arts and Sciences has recognized Professor José “Pepo” Delgado with the 2009 Jeanette G. Grasselli Brown Faculty Teaching Award in the Humanities. Students enrolled in Delgado’s Spanish language or literature classes appreciate this outstanding instructor’s ability to inspire them. Pepo’s experience as a successful creative writer no doubt helps him lead his students to a deeper understanding of literature in classes he teaches at OU and in the summer program at Middlebury College.

Through his directorship of the winter intersession study abroad program offered in his native Puerto Rico, Delgado provides students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in a Spanish-speaking environment, explore and do research on Puerto Rican culture, and interact with noted scholars.



Colleagues gather at the fall quarter Arts and Sciences Awards Ceremony to honor Pepo Delgado (front row, 5<sup>th</sup> from Left)

Many alumni have fond memories of the plays Delgado directs and casts with Spanish faculty and students. Audiences enjoy the performances, and the cast benefits from weeks of interaction in Spanish, as they bring the play to life.

Delgado served for eight years as department graduate chair, and he continues to contribute greatly to graduate education in our department. He is the co-director of the Ohio Latin Americanist Conference and helps students submit papers, polish their ideas, and prepare their work to present to an audience. Modern Languages faculty are proud of our 2009 Grasselli Teaching Award-winning colleague.

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Adios, Au revoir, Aufwiedersehen, Arrivederci, Até logo, До свидания!

**Karen Evans-Romaine** has accepted a tenured position as Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature at the University of Wisconsin beginning fall 2009. She played a major role in building the Russian major in the Department of Modern Languages during her thirteen years at OU. From 1998 to 2008 Evans-Romaine directed the study abroad program in Moscow every other year. Her collegiality and her participation in many activities involving languages, literature, and culture will be missed.

**Karin Wright** retired from the Department of Modern languages after 26 years of teaching in the German program. Karin earned an MA in German and also an M.A. in History at Ohio University. During her years on the staff she taught a wide range of courses, including Beginning, Intermediate, the 300 Conversation/Composition sequence, and the Culture and Civilization course. She continues to reside in Athens, where her husband, Louis, is retired from the Department of Physics. We wish her well in this new stage of her life, which involves traveling, dabbling in water color painting, and writing up her family's intriguing history.

In the fall of 2009, **Carole Cloutier** began her new position at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as Language Program Director in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. She teaches courses in Spanish and Hispanic Linguistics as well as the Foreign Language Pedagogy course open to all languages.

**Wendy Kaaz**, Media Resources Coordinator in Modern Languages, moved to a position in the Department of Biological Sciences at OU. In addition to her duties in our Language Resource Center, Kaaz was an important member of the team that produces *Say There*. Needless to say, we miss her expertise.

# Study Abroad

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## **Austria (Salzburg: Director Nikhil Sathe, assisted by Andrea Herzog)**

Marking our 41<sup>st</sup> year in Salzburg, the 2009 Spring Quarter program took 18 students for our ten-week program. The coursework was greatly enhanced by viewing of a performance of Schnitzler's play *Reigen*, through exchanges with our conversation partners at the University of Salzburg, and through a conversation class with Johannes Rankl (our Exchange Teaching Assistant during 2009-2010). Our students experienced the Austrian school system during our visit to a local high school where a former program participant is working as a teaching assistant. In addition to the usual outings in and around Salzburg and trips to Vienna and Munich, we were excited to add an excursion to Berlin, where we visited many historical sites, including the infamous former STASI (East German secret police) prison. Perhaps the biggest, and certainly the highest, highlight was our hike up the Gaisberg mountain, where the sunny skies, warm weather, and amazing vistas of Salzburg and the Alps compensated for the long climb. To see pictures of the Spring 2009 program, please visit the program website at <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~sathe/sbg09/>.

## **Brazil (Director: Betsy Partyka)**

In summer of 2009 five graduate students participated in the second year of the five-week study abroad program in Brazil. Three weeks were spent in Belo Horizonte taking classes and visiting various historical and artistic sites. On their way to Rio de Janeiro for the remaining two weeks the group travelled along the Estrada Real, visiting historical sites, including Ouro Preto, Mariana and Tiradentes.

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

The *Université de Laval* once again hosted several Ohio University students for six weeks in the summer of 2009 for an intensive language program. During the first week, the students learned about the history of Québec province before heading for a visit to Montréal and the St. Lawrence River. During the remaining five weeks, classes were held in French and included classmates from many countries. The Québec Summer Music Festival also highlighted diversity, and students took advantage of the annual festival that featured well-known musicians. After leading the Québec program during its first six years, Christophe Corbin has stepped down as director to pursue other educational opportunities. Application information is available on <http://www.ohio.edu/educationabroad/Programs/quebec.html>.

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

Eight men and two women participated in the Cuenca language program during the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the program in Spring 2009. Students took classes at the center for Inter American Studies (CEDEI), lived with families in the southern Andean city of Cuenca, and spent three weeks visiting and learning about other regions of the country, including the north, the Pacific coast and the Amazonian rain forest. In addition to classes and travel, students worked as volunteers in a service project at a local school.

## **France (Avignon: Directors, Christophe Corbin, Katy Adair; assistant Jennifer L. Winefordner)**

April 2009 was exceptional in Avignon, with a rainy spring and several ruthless days of *mistral* winds, as well as the cultural encounter that is *grèves* (strikes) and *manifestations* in the French university system. Our classes and excursions at *l'Université d'Avignon et Pays de Vaucluse* were unaffected by the strikes, but the ambience on campus was interesting from a foreigner's perspective.

(continued on next page)

The 20 Ohio University participants contributed to the creation of a book of poetry, thanks to a quarter-long creative writing workshop that took them to locations throughout the city to contemplate their surroundings in verse or prose. As part of the class entitled “Cinematographic and Literary Memories of the French Resistance,” students met with members of the French Resistance from World War II and spent the day participating in a roundtable discussion and museum visit. For more information on the program, please visit <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~adair/avignon/avignon.html>.

### **Italy (Florence: Director Molly Morrison)**

In summer 2009 Professor Morrison directed our new Italy study abroad program. She took 20 students to Florence during the summer for eight weeks. In addition to directing the program, she taught an intensive Italian language course and the Dante course. The program was a success, with students participating in class work, excursions and other language activities.

The program is ultra-intensive, giving students one full year of language credit for the eight-week experience. Pictured is “Il Gruppo di Ohio” atop the Uffizi in Florence.



### **Mexico (Mérida: David Burton & Daniel Torres, Co-Directors)**

In Winter 2009 OUMayab celebrated its 30 years in Merida with thirty-eight undergraduate participants. Drs. Burton and Torres co-directed with Brian Bush as the TA. The program also relied on the help of a resident alum, Sarah West (MA '08), who taught at the 200-level. The group took the usual Saturday excursions to Uxmal, Chichen, and Celestun, and participated in the annual half-day get-together with English classes at the Universidad Tecnologica Metropolitana. OU colleague Prof. Maureen Weissenrieder spent four weeks on site evaluating the program. The directors had the pleasure of nominating Joaquin Bestard for the prestigious Eligio Ancona award for literature given by the Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan, which he won in the fall of 2009.

### **Puerto Rico Winter Intersession Program (Director, José Delgado)**

Seven OU students travelled to Puerto Rico during Winter Intersession '09. For the second time the Universidad de Puerto Rico/Aguadilla served as our host. The students crisscrossed the island, visiting towns, parks, museums and, yes, a few beaches. They also attended lectures given by Aguadilla faculty on topics such as history, rain forests, bioluminescent bays, dunes and salt-flats. Given the brief nature of the intersession, the program emphasizes cultural rather than linguistic immersion.

### **Spain (Toledo: Directors Winter--Kit Brown; Spring--Emilia Marks; Summer--Michael Sisson)**

2008-2009 marked the second year of Bobcats studying abroad in Toledo, Spain. In partnership with ESTO, a language institute affiliated with the Universidad Castilla-La Mancha, OU offers classes in Toledo at the 300 level and above. This past year, 38 students benefitted culturally and linguistically from living with host families as well as volunteering in the local community. In addition to walking tours of the historical host city, students travel to other parts of Spain for day- or weekend excursions, including the nearby capital of Madrid.

## Wallace J. Cameron: Teacher, Colleague, Study Abroad Pioneer



We are saddened to report the passing of our colleague Wallace “Wally” J. Cameron, professor emeritus of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages. Dr. Cameron died on December 18, 2009 of complications from a fall in Mission, Texas, at the age of 83.

Following study in Spain and at the University of Iowa, he was granted a PhD in 1956, when he was hired by Ohio University. He enjoyed a long and distinguished career that included a Fulbright Award to teach in Bolivia, several outstanding teaching awards, service as the first chairman of the faculty senate as well as chairman of the Department of Modern Language. Professor Cameron is remembered for his classes on Latin American Civilization and Culture and especially for his initiation and directorship of many years of study abroad programs in Mexico. He was the director of the Xalapa, Veracruz Portales program for many years before moving the program to Mérida, Yucatan and renaming it the Mayab program. He so loved Mexico that upon retirement he moved to Pharr, Texas where he could visit Mexico more easily.

In the following reminiscence Maureen Weissenrieder, a longtime colleague and friend, expresses what many students also felt about their travels with “Dr. C” as he was affectionately known: “I will always remember that Wally Cameron found humor in practically everything; you could see a unique insight being born in the twinkle of Wally's eyes. As the senior Spanish faculty member Wally was very protective of the Spanish staff and program. From the time I arrived in the department I always felt I had a champion. This was part of Wally's genuine love for all things Hispanic. The students that accompanied him south on his study abroad programs got a special glimpse of Wally's Mexico. I was privileged that he showed me some of that Mexico on several occasions, which deepened my commitment to the Hispanic world. Wally left a little bit of himself in everyone who knew him. I was no exception.”

The following lines were written by Barry Thomas in honor of Wally at his retirement in 1992:

“We're gathered tonight to gratefully laud / A pioneer spirit of study abroad.  
Of program directors there've been quite a lot, / But tonight we honor the one known as “Doc”.  
That's Wally, of course, of Mexican bent, / Who for many a year quite unselfishly spent  
Athenian Winters and Spring Quarters, too, / Doing what any sane person would do:  
Soaking up sunshine and mucha Tequila / Living una vida no muy tranquila,  
Showing our students--such innocent faces!-- / His out-of-the-way and off-limits places.  
It's no secret that anyone who's ever once been a / Student of Wally knows every cantina  
'Tween the Texas border and the far Yucatan. / When we think of all the programs he ran  
It's clear who owes him a very big debt: / Those who have been there, and those who'll go yet.”

Wally Cameron will be missed by students and colleagues alike. If you would like to honor Wally with a donation, please send your contributions to the OU Foundation PO Box 869, Athens 45701, indicating clearly the “Cameron-Portales Fund.”

If you would like to share a special memory from your participation in one of Dr. Cameron's Mexico programs, please see page 15.

## Ohio Latin Americanist Conference Grows

After its successful debut in Athens in 2008, the 2009 Ohio Latin Americanist Conference returned to Ohio University as a two-day affair on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and attracted over 100 participants. Co-organizers and Department of Modern Languages Spanish faculty members Betsy Partyka and José Delgado-Costa arranged a spectrum of sessions on literature, economics, language, geography, politics, and various social issues. The presenters included an impressive array of current and former OU students whose PhD, MA, BA, or post-graduate research centers on Latin America, and many sessions featured talks from OU faculty from departments across campus. Keynote speaker Werner Baer, Professor of Economics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, spoke at Saturday's luncheon on "The Impact of Globalization on Latin America's Economies and the Effects of the Current Recession."



Session XX participants l to r: G. Raquel Pina (Ohio State), Tim Mollett (OU), Regina Coeli da Silveira e Silva (Uni. Salgado de Oliveira), Lisa Mosier (Tulane), Hernán Medina (OU)

## Alumni Teach English in La Mancha, Spain

Each year since 2007, our department has nominated one graduating BA or MA student to serve as *lector* on one of the Universidad Castilla-La Mancha campuses in central Spain. This opportunity arose as a good-will offering from UCLM after OU began sending undergraduates to study at the UCLM Toledo campus. The *lector*'s duties involve teaching English language and US cultures in both formal academic settings and less formally in residence halls. Testimony to the success of the program is the fact that to date, no *lector* has returned to the US! Each year, UCLM has hired our students on for a second and, in one case, third year of service. In addition, for 2009-2010, UCLM accepted two of our MA graduates. Tim Brust (Spanish HTC), Jordan Poling (MA Spanish), Alicia Miklos (MA Spanish) and Amelia Sylvester (MA Spanish) are all currently teaching English at UCLM in Ciudad Real.

## ... and in France

Six undergraduates majoring in French were selected for French Government Assistantships to teach English in France during the 2009-2010 academic year. Two of those selected, Amanda Catron and Joel Smith, accepted positions in the French public schools. In addition to teaching twelve hours a week, they have the opportunity to participate in community activities and meet other teaching assistants in German and Spanish. The students also have time to travel in France and around Europe. Amanda and Joel plan to return to OU to pursue the MA and teach French to American college students as teaching assistants.

LOOKING BACK: 1969-70  
It was a dark and stormy night . . . .

. . . . Actually, not just one night but an extended period of student unrest across the nation in 1969-70, and Ohio University and the Department of Modern Languages (DML) were not spared the disruptions. The death of students at Kent State was the flash point, but the Ohio campus had been in a state of turmoil for some time as students protested the Vietnam war and demanded more say in their education. Whatever your viewpoint on these developments, there is no doubt that the AY 1969-70 represented a turning point in the role that students, faculty and administrators played in the life of the university. While the macrocosm of the nation and the state was profoundly affected by these events, on a microcosmic scale the DML also played a role in these tumultuous times. Following are reminiscences of two DML faculty from that exciting but dangerous period in OU's history.

Barry Thomas (Professor of German): As a young faculty member recently (1965) arrived from Berkeley, CA, in 1969-70 I was more interested in preparing my classes and making my case for tenure than in the political demands of students. In 1964 I had experienced the original Free Speech Movement on the UC/Berkeley campus, with its accompanying breakdown of the educational process. In the conflict between students and administration in Athens I had a sense of "Berkeley déjà vu," with the same stubborn confrontation and lack of real dialogue. It was clear that OU was headed, like a Greek tragedy, to an unavoidable catastrophe. Other colleagues, who were actively involved in protecting Ellis Hall (our academic home at the time) from vandalism, can better describe the security measures, the night watches, the destruction preceding the closing of the university, since as a non-citizen at the time I kept my distance from those events, just as I had in Berkeley studying on a student visa. Being caught up in a demonstration, even innocently, could have meant a quick exit from the USA. One of my vivid memories is walking along Court Street the morning after the university closed, trying not to stare--with eyes stinging from the tear gas still hanging in the air--at the armed national guardsmen posted along the street: a chilling experience.



Phil Richardson (Director, Learning Resource Center): Bricks crashing through windows, pepper spray tearing up my eyes, the sound of gunshots as police fired rubber bullets—those are my strongest memories of the riots of 1970. I was in the thick of it for two nights, since I had volunteered to guard Ellis Hall along with two French faculty, Chris Cotton and Ruth Nybakken. Our job was to call for help in case of arson (as had happened to an ROTC building) or if angry students tried to break into the building. For two nights we roamed the floors, checking classrooms or watching the activities outside. We stayed awake with the help of coffee and the adrenalin rush generated by the riots. Groups of students roamed the area around Ellis and College Green, shouting "Hell, no, we won't go" and other slogans of the time. This continued until early morning when the rioters took a break and I took a nap.

The last night before the University closed was the worst. I remember standing in the language lab when a brick came through the window. Later some students pounded on the main door of Ellis. They had been sprayed with pepper gas, so we brought them inside and helped them wash their eyes. I wasn't surprised when the University closed. I was concerned, however, when the National Guard was deployed on campus and in town. This is America, I thought. It's not supposed to happen here! I felt like I was in an occupied country, even more so when faculty were issued special passes to "allow" them to go to their offices.

This was only the beginning of a bad time for Ohio University. Enrollment plummeted, good faculty and staff had to be dismissed, and we lost some excellent students whose parents made them transfer. I still think of the pre-riot time as "the good old days."



Remembering when . . .  
Barry Thomas, Professor Emeritus of German

Dear Alums,

I've been asked to write a word or two  
About what we folks in retirement do.  
The teaching of German I've always enjoyed,  
But am happy to consider myself now unemployed.  
Much of the time I spend at my leisure  
Pursuing the golf ball (my pain and my pleasure).  
A very fair question you may well ask:  
--"Isn't filling each day a considerable task?"  
--"Not at all" is my reply to you.  
Jean & I have much to do,  
Unburdened by schedules and those darn committees.

We travel the Seven—well, just One or Two—Seas.  
For example we hula-ed in the Pineapple State  
And toured much of Britain (with surname "Great").  
We traversed Italia—que bella!-- from Rome to Milan,  
Of Tuscany we both are now fervent fans.

Did I mention our cruise on the not-so-Blue Donau?  
The new Eastern Europe, a definite "Wow!"--  
From Bucharest to Budapest  
We experienced their wish to be part of the West.

Two years ago we sallied forth  
To visit the magnificent Alaskan North:  
At first on land through Denali Park  
And then sailing out on a tiny barque  
To visit the glaciers and sea-life galore  
(If you're not getting bored I can tell you more!).

In May '08, as you may have heard,  
We visited our favorite Mozartian burg  
To participate in and celebrate  
The fortieth anniversary date  
Of Study Abroad on the River Salzach  
(We both look forward to soon getting back),  
After which came a marvelous time  
Cruising Amsterdam-Basel on old "Father Rhine".

Such are the things we'll continue to do,  
But perhaps a bit of historical review  
Will bridge the gap between now and then,  
When from Berkeley to Athens my way I did wend.  
In the *anno domini* '65  
My family and I with trepidation arrived  
At this unknown school, Ohio U.

I knew exactly what I would do:  
Stay a few years and then be on my way.  
But to my surprise, I was here to stay,  
And have never regretted the forty-plus years,  
Filled with much pleasure and perhaps a few tears--  
Some of them caused by the trace of mace  
When the National Guard took over the place  
Because of the riots protesting Kent State.  
An early spring closing was the university's fate--

A reminder of Berkeley in '64,  
Demanding Free Speech, protesting the war.

But to happier times we must give a nod,  
For example the programs of Study Abroad  
Which I had the privilege to direct many times  
(Occasionally captured in Salzburgian rhymes)  
And make lasting friendships with students, too many  
To mention here, lest I omit some or any.

My colleagues have included so many good friends,  
And friendships don't stop when the teaching ends.  
A decade was spent as department chair  
(About as long as any mortal can bear ☺)  
A half dozen presidents I've seen come and go:  
Some did quite well, while others—um, well: no!

Let's see: what else have I done  
That might qualify as professional fun?  
I've been happy to serve on the OFLA  
From decades past to the present day.  
I was proud to co-found our alliance of teachers,  
A hard-working group of language "out-reachers"  
Promoting foreign language and cultural awareness:  
A rewarding task, I'm pleased to confess.

I still visit Gordy on non-golfing days  
And try to help out in various ways.  
Pretending to be an "éminence grise",  
I get to say whatever I please!

Finally it all comes down to this:  
One thing I can say I truly miss  
Is the contact with students both in class and out,  
Explaining the thrill of the German Umlaut ☺  
Or chatting in German at the Tuesday "Stammtisch".  
So I'll end this "Gedicht" with the fervent wish  
That we'll all have a chance to meet again.  
And until that day: Aufwiederschen!



Barry & Jean enjoying retirement at a "glacial" pace

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## Faculty News

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**Emilia Alonso Marks** I directed our Toledo program last spring quarter with 10 OU participants. The students lived with host families and attended Spanish classes at the University of Castilla-La Mancha. It was a fantastic experience. This past December I was married in Buenos Aires, Argentina. My husband, an OU professor in Physics and Astronomy, and I live in Athens with my two children and our dog, Bear.

**Rich Danner** This fall quarter at OU I taught French Romanticism and Cross-Cultural Studies (Tier 3). My 2009 teaching schedule in New Hampshire included several literature courses at Southern New Hampshire University (World Lit., Modern Drama, and Literary Theory); elementary French at SNHU and at Nashua Community College; and Human Relationships in Cinema at the Rivier Institute for Senior Education (RISE). Three of my poems are being published this fall in *Dawn*, the literary journal of RISE. This past winter I presented a lecture, "On Being a Humanist," at two assisted-living facilities in Nashua. I still play tennis frequently, and the senior doubles team, which I captained, participated in the USTA New England Senior Sectionals. I also continued to serve as one of the cantors at my church.

**Yolande Helm** I spent most of last year finishing a book on the French Caribbean author Suzanne Dracius (L'Harmattan Press, Paris, 2009). I am completing my other book on Roland Brival, on "Le Métissage," which should come out this year. Last Fall I gave a paper at a literary colloquium in Martinique on Suzanne Dracius. Among my articles I am most proud of one I co-authored with our Spanish MA student, Tatiana Argüello: "La construction du corps féminin . . ." I continue to enjoy my classes, especially those on Francophone Literature.

**Tom Franz** I read a paper at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in April. I became graduate advisor in Spanish and graduate chair of our department in May. In September I read a paper at the VIII Jornadas Unamunianas in Salamanca, Spain, while in November I read another paper at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature in Kansas. My son Andy and I traveled to Buenos Aires for the wedding of Professors Emilia Marks and Horacio Castillo in December. My scholarship, sadly, has leveled off after assuming my advising and administrative duties, but I am trying to use my time better and to recharge my intellectual batteries through a more varied lifestyle. My wife Daisy and I continue to ski, and I am still active with the Boy Scouts.

**Daniel Torres** My second book of poetry, *De bellaqueras*, was published in San Juan. For the release of the book, I traveled to the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Mexico. I presented papers at the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry, the International Book Fair in Santo Domingo, and the Cincinnati Romance Languages Conference. I am about to finish two important research projects: *I Am Still Standing: La poesía completa de Luz María Umpierre Herrera* and a critical edition of *Don Carlos de Sigüenza y Gongora's complete poetry*. In addition, I wrote five book reviews and published one article.

**Mary Jane Kelley** 2009 marked the publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Más allá de las palabras*, a second-year Spanish textbook on which I collaborated with three co-authors. I continue to coordinate the second-year Spanish program, in which we use *Más allá...* to introduce students to the history and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world as well as to refine language skills. In April, I had the pleasure of presenting a paper at a conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico; my first (but not last!) trip to "la isla del encanto." I also spoke this year in Albuquerque and here at home in Athens.

**David Burton** In 2010 I will direct my twentieth Programa Mayab in Merida. In 2009 the Program celebrated thirty years in Yucatan. In July I presented a paper on the "Conde Lucanor" at a conference at Newcastle University in Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Great Britain). I took some time before and after the conference to visit York, Durham, and a very rainy and chilly Edinburgh, Scotland. I'm looking forward to teaching the "Quijote" for the first time in Spring Quarter.

**Lois Vines** In June 2009 I directed a three-day seminar for high school teachers sponsored by the Ping Institute for the Teaching of the Humanities. Our subject was Eleanor of Aquitaine, who was queen of France and then queen of England in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Participants engaged in discussions dealing with her biography, the historical context, and the literature of the troubadours. Discussion leaders were OU faculty Mary Jane Kelley (Spanish), Josephine Bloomfield (English) and Miriam Shadis (History).

## **Undergraduates Engaged in Interesting Research Projects**

Learning outside the classroom has been an important part of the OU experience for four language students: Nicole Re and Caitlin Yocco, HTC French, Carolyn White, HTC Spanish, and Catherine Maynard, A&S French. Re was awarded a grant from the Provost's Undergraduate Research Fund to travel to the south of France, where efforts are being made to assure the survival of Occitan, a regional language that has been spoken continuously since the Middle Ages. Re observed classes in which the language is taught, collected cultural material, and interviewed leaders of the movement to preserve Occitan.

White used her Provost Funding to spend time in New York City conducting research on aspects of identity among immigrants from the Dominican Republic. The focus of Yocco's research has been on the presentation of the Second World War and the Holocaust in illustrated French-language children's books published over the past few years. An article about her study will be included in the OU research magazine *Perspectives* in spring 2010. Catherine Maynard, a French major who is also proficient in sign language, spent four days on the campus of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. where she observed how French is taught to deaf students. The OU students' mentors, Lois Vines, French, and Betsy Partyka, Spanish, have praised the high quality and originality of these undergraduate research projects.

## **German Students Receive Nationally Competitive Awards**

In 2008-2009 three German graduates and former Salzburg participants were awarded teaching assistantships in Austria through the Austrian Ministry of Education/Fulbright Commission: Megan Higgins, who started her first year in Klagenfurt, and Seth Trammel and Elisabeth Anderson, who were awarded a second year for their assistantships in St. Pölten and Salzburg. In addition, two current students won scholarships: Marcus Hohe was awarded an undergraduate scholarship from the DAAD /German Academic Exchange Service and is presently studying in Leipzig, and Beth Thompson was awarded a Boren National Security Education Program scholarship to learn Russian in Moscow.

## **Scholarships and Awards**

URSULA FEER FARFEL  
SCHOLARSHIP  
Caitlin Yocco

MARY L. DURNION SCHOLARSHIP  
Erin Crane Elisse Farabaugh  
Catherine Maynard Grace Stout

MARY T. NOSS SCHOLARSHIP  
Catherine Caldwell Kristina Hauptmann  
Nicole Re Carolyn White

SUE AND CHARLES GLANDER STUDY  
ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP  
Meghan Devine

LASH AND LEETE MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP  
Meghan Devine Rachel Grimm  
Jared McCathren

STUDY ABROAD IN FRANCE  
SCHOLARSHIP  
Mary Augstkalns

MAXINE McCRORY MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP

Adjin Clevenger Ericha Franke  
Gildy Smith

GERMAN STUDY ABROAD  
SCHOLARSHIP  
Harirson Baldwin Andrea Reany

GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD  
Outstanding Junior French Majors  
Nicole Re Caitlin Yocco

GERALD T. WILKINSON AWARD  
Outstanding Graduating Seniors in French  
Katie Williams Elizabeth Nalepa

OUTSTANDING TEACHING  
ASSOCIATES  
French: Pauline Remy  
Spanish: Molly Dugan

## **Our Department 2008-2009**

### French

Christophe Corbin (Study Abroad) corbinc2@ohio.edu  
Christopher Coski coski@ohio.edu  
Richard Danner (Emeritus) danner@ohio.edu  
Signe Denbow denbowe@ohio.edu  
Dominique Duvert duvert@ohio.edu  
Yolande Helm helm@ohio.edu  
Brigitte Moretti-Coski moretti@ohio.edu  
Ruth Nybakken (Emerita) nybakken@ohio.edu  
Herta Rodina rodina@ohio.edu  
Fred Toner (Chair) toner@ohio.edu  
Lois Vines vinesl@ohio.edu

### French TAs

Jonathan Adzogah ja140308@ohio.edu  
Rachel Brennan rb181503@ohio.edu  
Melania Lavric ml237205@ohio.edu  
Syuzanna Miskaryan sm962706@ohio.edu  
Megan Murphy mm229703@ohio.edu  
Pauline Remy pr982207@ohio.edu  
Lillian Rutana lr236204@ohio.edu  
Helen Van Doren hv137903@ohio.edu  
Jennifer Winefordner jw172804@ohio.edu

### German

Dara Bryant bryantd1@ohio.edu  
Andrea Herzog herzoga@ohio.edu  
Nik Sathe sathe@ohio.edu  
Annette Steigerwald steigera@ohio.edu  
Bärbel Such such@ohio.edu  
Barry Thomas (Emeritus) thomasb@ohio.edu  
Karin Wright wrightk@ohio.edu

### German TA

Simone Pflieger sp187608@ohio.edu

### Italian

Anita Martin martina@ohio.edu  
Maria Milano milano@ohio.edu  
Molly Morrison morrisom@ohio.edu  
Francesca Wistendahl wistenda@ohio.edu  
Annalisa Zanuso zanuso@ohio.edu

### Portuguese TAs

Sarah Faria sf318808@ohio.edu  
Maria Scaglioni ms209407@ohio.edu

### Russian

Vera Belousova belousov@ohio.edu  
Karen Evans-Romaine evans-ro@ohio.edu

### Spanish

Liliana Álvarez alvarezl@ohio.edu  
Rachel Barnstable rb110807@ohio.edu  
Kit Brown brownk2@ohio.edu  
David Burton burtond@ohio.edu  
Tracy Butler tb617606@ohio.edu  
Carole Cloutier cloutier@ohio.edu  
Lauren Cutcher lc317003@ohio.edu  
José Delgado-Costa  
Kerri Eames delgadoj@ohio.edu  
Thomas Franz franz@ohio.edu  
Nelson Hippolyte hippolyt@ohio.edu  
Arthur Hughes hughesa@ohio.edu  
Mary Jane Kelley kelley@ohio.edu  
Amado Láscaz lascar@ohio.edu  
Emilia Marks markse@ohio.edu  
Jeff Marks marksj@ohio.edu  
Melissa McCormick miecznik@ohio.edu  
Melissa Myers mm159003@ohio.edu  
Betsy Partyka partyka@ohio.edu  
Anne Porter porterp1@ohio.edu  
Barbara Reichenbach richenb@ohio.edu  
Anne Scott scotta2@ohio.edu  
Michael Sisson sisson@ohio.edu  
Daniel Torres torres@ohio.edu  
Carisa Trapp trappc@ohio.edu  
Fer Vallejo vallejo@ohio.edu  
Amy Walters mengers2@hotmail.com  
Maureen Weissenrieder weissenr@ohio.edu  
Keith Woodall woodall@ohio.edu

### Spanish TAs

Ana Alcocer aa322607@ohio.edu  
Eloísa Alcocer ea204308@ohio.edu  
Tatiana Argüello ta171507@ohio.edu  
Kayce Berke kb232603@ohio.edu  
Brian Bush bb317503@ohio.edu  
Gabriela Castañeda-Jiménez castaned@ohio.edu  
Molly Dugan md140003@ohio.edu  
Jayme Dyrdek jk183104@ohio.edu  
Cassandra Hickman ch347808@ohio.edu  
Hernán Medina hm104607@ohio.edu  
Alicia Miklos am579003@ohio.edu  
Pierette Morales [pm128408@ohio.edu](mailto:pm128408@ohio.edu)  
Ledy Perez  
Silvia Navarrete-Rivero sn331607@ohio.edu  
Amelia Sylvester as263107@ohio.edu  
Leah Vincent lv333603@ohio.edu  
Gizelle Wiltshire  
Language Resource Center  
Stephanie Buechele sb704206@ohio.edu  
Mike Dombroski md108091@ohio.edu  
Greg Kessler (Interim Dir.) kessler@ohio.edu  
Jeff Circle (Media Res. Coord.) circle@ohio.edu

### Staff

Jan Harmon harmonj@ohio.edu  
Brett Lewis lewisb@ohio.edu  
Lora Davis rifflel@ohio.edu

# AlumNEWS

**Jason Goff** (BA Spanish 1999)

Jason, who studied in Mexico ('98) and Spain ('99) reports that he is married with children, ages 9 and 4. He completed an MBA in 2005 and is Business Unit Manager for Avery Dennison. Jason says he is still using his Spanish language skills.

**Dr. Norma Lee Kline Mittenthal** (Psychology, Sociology, Spanish, 1950)

Dr. Mittenthal studied 5 languages at OU (Spanish, French, Latin, German, Portuguese). She later earned her PhD in Psychology at Nova Southeastern University and also did postdoctoral work at Temple University. She now practices in Sarasota, FL where she finds her knowledge of Spanish essential in her dealings with clients.

**Philip Gordon** (BA French and Philosophy 1984) was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in May 2009 as Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasian Affairs. Before President Obama nominated him for the position, Gordon was a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. *Newsweek* magazine (12/7/09) quoted Gordon concerning sensitive political questions, calling him "Obama's point man on Turkey at the State Department."

**Brandi Bette (Staley) Smead** (BA Spanish 1999), is happy to announce the arrival of Ripley Scott Smead, born on November 21. She weighed 7 lbs 1 oz and was 20 inches long!

**Amber Prenat Dailey** (BA French 2002) Amber is teaching three levels of French at Centerville High School in Ohio and loves her job. She earned her Master's degree in French Education at Wright State in June 2009. She and her husband Eric welcomed their first child, Madelyn Grace, on March 31, 2008.

**Jaime Arnold Rice** (MA French 2006) A French teacher at Colorado Springs High School, Jaime was selected to participate in the 2009 NEH summer seminar in Avignon, France. For four weeks the teachers studied modern French drama and attended performances during the Avignon theater festival. Jaime enjoys teaching French and was pleased to perfect her speaking skills and knowledge of French theater while spending a month in France.

**Stephanie Voyles Stamper** (MA French 2008) Stephanie and Jim were married in Galbreath Chapel on the OU campus October 2009. She is teaching French at Alexander High School near Athens. She was elected treasurer of the Ohio Foreign Language Association in 2009.

**Pauline Remy** (MA French 2009) taught French for a semester at Saint Mary's College of Maryland. She has been accepted with a teaching assistantship at the University of Iowa, where she will begin her doctoral studies in September 2010.

**Jordan Poling** (MA Spanish 2008) has completed her second year teaching English in Spain at the Universidad Castilla LaMancha. She will also teach there during the 2010-11 year.

**Sarah West** (MA Spanish 2007) will begin PhD studies at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in late August.

## Department of Modern Languages 2008-2009 Contributors

Laurel M. Ayers	James Kevany	Eric Edwin Schmutte
Karen Kraus Battes	Dolores M. Kirby	Marcia A. Schoeppner
Martha E. Boyce	Martha L. Knorre	Sharon Scinicariello
Frank B. Brooks	Daniel Ladner	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Yates Smead
Ruth Clearfield	Robert O. Lewis	Heather K. Sroufe
Sheryl B. Cook	Gloria B. Loyd	Barry & Jean Thomas
Fay Ellen D'Ambrosia-Brown	Mary Susan Miller	Laura J. Thomas
Richard and Mary L. Danner	Rosa-Maria Moreno	Major Claudia S. Vester-
Colleen C. Dillon	Kristin Joy Mudra	Hawthorne
Maxine A. Drapkin	George M. Mudrie	Robert and Lois Vines
Janie L. Duncan	Joan L. Nordstrom	Maddalena Violillo
Carolyn R. Edlin	Thomas G. Opferman	Janet E. West
Jeffrey R. Elliot	James A. Parr	Thomas J. Whalen
Dr. & Mrs. Gilbert Farfel	Joseph K. Pettigrew	Lynn Raker Wurzelbacher
Carole Fliegel	George J. Riser	Gretchen A. Yerian
Joleen Fridson	Cynthia Rovai	
Katherine Junker	Leah Denine Sampson	
Robert A. Kahn	Nikhil A. Sathe	

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. Please visit us at [www.ohio.edu/modlang/](http://www.ohio.edu/modlang/)

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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 OU:  Year of graduation from OU

Study Abroad Program(s): Country /Year

UPDATE:

- Any news about yourself?
- Are you still using your language skills?
- Do you have special memories of your language experiences that you would like to share?
- Do you know the addresses of any other alumni?

Please include any information below or on a separate page. If you prefer to respond by e-mail, send your information to Barry Thomas at: [thomasb@ohio.edu](mailto:thomasb@ohio.edu). Be sure to include "Say There" in the subject line of your e-mail. Thank you.

Contributions to any of the following funds may be sent to the Ohio University Foundation, PO Box 869, Athens, OH 45701, with the name of the fund clearly designated. The funds promote student and departmental activities. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

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French Language Fund  French Study Abroad in France

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Cameron-Portales Fund (Mexico Study Abroad)  M. A. (Tony) Serna-Maytorena Memorial Scholarship

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Modern Languages Study Abroad  Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance Fund

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Ohio University  
Department of Modern Languages  
Gordy Hall  
Athens, Ohio 45701

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