

Say There



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The Department of Modern Languages Newsletter

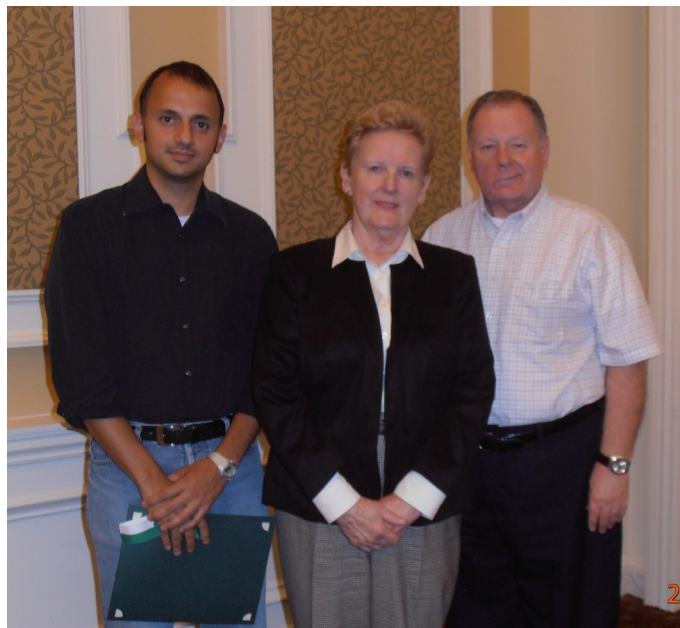
Academic Year 2010-2011

More Accolades For Our Faculty

Ohio University recognizes individuals who make outstanding contributions in the areas of teaching, advising, and service. In 2011, faculty members in the Department of Modern Languages were selected for awards in all three categories. David Burton, Professor of Spanish, received the **Jeannette Grasselli Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Humanities**, his third teaching award granted by the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1993 he received the Dean's Outstanding Teaching Award and in 2003 his first Grasselli award. Whether teaching on campus or directing our program in Merida, Mexico, Burton is highly respected and loved by his students, who express their appreciation on course evaluations. As one student wrote: "Dr. Burton is one of the best professors that Ohio University has to offer. He cares for every student and is more than willing to help in any situation. [He's] always prepared, organized, and fair." Similar thoughts have been expressed by many students during Burton's teaching career at OU.

Nik Sathe, Associate Professor of German, received the **College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Advisor Award**. Sathe plays a major role in the success of the German program in our department. In addition to advising fifteen majors, he serves as coordinator for both the 100 and 200 levels of German and as director of the study abroad program in Salzburg. Sathe mentors students who apply for the Fulbright Teaching Assistantships in German, several of whom have been selected at the national level. He is a regular participant in the German Conversation Table, is the faculty advisor for the German Club, and participates in other activities involving German students outside the classroom. One student wrote: "Dr. Sathe is without a doubt the most committed professor I have come into contact with at OU. [His] patience, creativity, and unique pedagogical approach are outstanding." Sathe's advising goes beyond helping students choose courses for the major. He encourages them to broaden their academic experiences by pursuing a double major and going abroad, which is often a life-changing experience.

The OU Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA) honored Lois Vines, Professor of French, as the recipient of the **Ann Campbell Brown Distinguished Service Award**. ONCA helps students campus-wide



Award recipients (listed left to right): Drs. Nik Sathe, Lois Vines, and David Burton.

learn about and apply for very selective opportunities funded at the national and international levels. Vines has mentored students who apply for the French Government English Assistant Program which offers American students the opportunity to teach English in French public schools for an academic year while receiving a stipend to cover their living expenses. Over thirty OU students have been selected for assistantships during the past ten years. Vines also serves on interview committees for Fulbright Teaching Assistantships each year and has provided many letters of recommendation for students applying for nationally competitive opportunities. A student who received a French Government award expressed her appreciation, saying: "Thanks to Dr. Vines, I had a once-in-a-lifetime experience living and working in France, which has had a major effect on my future goal of becoming a French teacher."

The Department of Modern Languages congratulates these award recipients, who devote a great deal of time enriching the learning experiences of students in the classroom and beyond.

Greetings From the Chair 2010-11

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to another edition of *Say There*, our yearly update on the Department of Modern Languages (DML). The year 2010-11 was filled with exciting events, huge accomplishments by our faculty, staff and students, and even some progress with our website!! This year's biggest challenge will be to get everything on track for the switch to semesters that will happen in Fall 2012. We will be starting our new semester year on August 27 at 7:30am!! I do hope we have lots of early-bird faculty and students to make this work.

In *Say There* you will read about the latest graduate student outstanding teaching awards, Fulbrights, French government teaching placements, and many other honors received by our faculty and students, as well as retirements and memories of former faculty members. For more in-depth information and pictures, please see "Older entries" on the website.



As you take a moment to browse the website: <http://modlang.ohio.edu/> you will notice two important new sections that are dedicated to the scholarly activities of our faculty and students (See Faculty Scholarly Activities and Student Scholarly Activities). In addition we have all of the updated information about the Quarter-to-Semester switch. We are well ahead of the game in our planning and are proud to be called a "role model" by Arts and Sciences. Wish us luck in continuing in that position.

I am pleased to announce that the DML continues to be a top award-winning department in the College of Arts & Sciences and the University. This year Nik Sathe was awarded the CAS Outstanding Advisor Award and David Burton received his second Grasselli Teaching Award. Lois Vines was honored by the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards with the Ann Campbell Brown Distinguished Service Award for her commitment and guidance to our students (see story, page 1).

After a tough year of budget cut threats, we came out pretty strong and were able to make critical hires in German, Italian and Spanish, at least on a one-year basis. We are pleased to welcome Svetlana Gordon in German, Bruno Rota in Italian, and re-welcome Liliana Alvarez in Spanish.

Study abroad continues to be strong. This past year we ran programs in Spain, France, Austria, Italy, Ecuador and Mexico. This coming year we will also host our biennial program in Russia. We are working hard with the Office of Education Abroad to fit our programs into the semester system, so there will be plenty of changes in 2012-13!

Last year we successfully met many challenges and, with the good will and dedication of faculty and students, expect this year to persevere again in the face of new challenges. As always, we hope to hear from more and more of you as you read our news on line and in *Say There*.

Many thanks to all of you who keep in touch and support the DML in all of our endeavors.

Sincerely,

Betsy Partyka

Say There®

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Department Administrator:

Jan Harmon

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Barry Thomas

Lois Vines

Founding Editor:

Phil Richardson

Study Abroad

Austria (Salzburg: Director Nikhil Sathe, Assistant Andrea Herzog)

During the program's final class, I tell students that I hope they experience a bad case of reverse homesickness after they leave because it means they had a diverse, stimulating, and, one hopes, life-changing time in Salzburg. The eighteen participants this year had plenty of exciting experiences for which they might become homesick: greatly improving their language skills in ten short weeks, learning about Austria's health and education systems; examining European reactions to global migration; sampling Austrian cuisine; reading a novel and then seeing its adaptation in a local theater; exploring history and culture on our weekly excursions in Salzburg and on group trips to Munich, Berlin, and Vienna; and of course their weekend travels, which took them everywhere from Amsterdam to Zagreb. This year's group literally scaled great heights, as all the alpine enthusiasts went skiing and hiking in Austria and Bavaria. Thanks to pre-departure facebook networking, our students had a head start in meeting their Austrian conversation partners, from whom they learned a great deal while in Austria. The program went very smoothly, thanks in part to the efforts of our talented Teaching Assistant (Luke Slager). For pictures, please visit the program website at: <http://www.ohio.edu/people/sathe/sbg11>.

Italian in Florence Study Abroad program (Director Molly Morrison)

Participants study eight weeks in the historical district of Florence, Italy. They take an intensive Italian language and culture course, and a literature course on Dante. Included as a vital part of their program are various in-town excursions to museums and significant historical and cultural sites. Additionally, they have out of town excursions to Venice, Rome, San Gimignano, Cinque Terre, Pisa, and Siena.



Ecuador (Cuenca: Director Leah Vincent)

Twelve students participated in the spring program, again hosted by the Center for Interamerican Studies. While students lived for seven weeks with host families (as always, a positive experience), during the quarter we also traveled to the coast and to the Amazon for a week each, as well as the area north of Quito, the capital. Through these and other trips, students got to meet different communities and cultures, and gain an overview of the different ecological systems in Ecuador. Each student had distinct personalities and was open to conversing on all kinds of topics in politics, racism, class issues, globalization, etc. It is beautiful to see how a program abroad affects young people. They are conscious about the world and analyzing their experience and how they fit into the big picture.

This was my last year with this program, and having gone from student to director, I want to thank the Department of Modern Languages and Office of Education Abroad for offering such an enriching experience. From my two different perspectives it has been extremely rewarding.

France (Avignon: Directors Christophe Corbin and Katy Adair; Assistant Amanda Catron)

For the sixth consecutive year Avignon, Cité des Papes, hosted fourteen Ohio University students for ten weeks while they studied at the Université d'Avignon et des pays de Vaucluse. Classes included culture and civilization, history of modern France in conjunction with the Festival of Avignon, 20th century literature, and Cinematographic and Literary Memories of the French Resistance. Excursions included horseback riding, canoeing, and spending the night in Marseille next to the Vieux Port. The students made great language progress in class as well as being immersed in the language within their host families and spending time with their correspondents with whom they were in touch before arriving in Avignon.

Study Abroad, continued

Mexico (Directors David Burton & Daniel Torres)

Fifty-one undergraduate Bobcats studied in Mérida during Winter 2011, the 32nd year of the program. The two Teaching Assistants were Elizabeth Grassmann and Ashley Klasnich. The group visited the caves at Loltún; the Maya ruins at Uxmal, Ek Balam and Chichén Itzá; as well as the ecological reserve at Celestún. Advanced students in the Mayan Civilization class also visited the biocultural reserve at Kaxil Kiuic. A group of thirteen students spent a memorable weekend in Tixmehuac, hometown of our secretary, Genny Alonzo. Genny, along with second-timers Casey Potts and Phil Banker, helped organize the weekend activities. This year marked Dr. Burton's twenty-first year as director.

Spain (Toledo)

Winter: (Director Michael Sisson)

Sixteen OU students spent one of the mildest winters in recent memory in Toledo, Spain. The sunny spring-like days were ideal for excursions to Madrid, Segovia, Aranjuez, and El Escorial, as well as walking tours of the *casco*, the medieval center of Toledo and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The group visited museums, palaces, castles, cathedrals, mosques, and synagogues, which enriched their classroom studies of Spanish culture, literature, and language. Invited to participate in the official commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Toledo, Spain and Toledo, Ohio, they were recognized from the dais by Spanish dignitaries and the delegation from Ohio. All agreed that this study abroad experience had been a marvelous success and wished they could stay longer in Spain.



Spring: (Director Emilia Marks)

This year our fourteen students were able to creatively work around their busy academic schedules, becoming experienced travelers in Europe while enjoying the boundless cultural opportunities in Toledo and in other regions of Spain – the solemnity of the festivities surrounding Holy Week; the joyful pilgrimage to *El Valle*, Toledo (May 1st); and the local celebrations around the Day of the Autonomous Region of *Castilla-La Mancha* (May 31st).

Summer: (Director Arthur Hughes)

Ten students participated in this year's Summer Study in Toledo. In addition to the intensive classroom experience, students made excursions to Segovia, home to the famous Roman aqueduct, the Alcazar, and Candelada, where we toured one of the largest underground stalactite caves in Spain, Grutas del Aguila. Weekly walking tours in Toledo provided the opportunity to learn more about the host city. Students were housed individually with Toledan families and made good use of the 5-week program to improve significantly their language and culture skills.

As part of their upper-level Theater class, students presented a hilarious skit describing the difficulties involved in finding rental accommodation in contemporary Spain. This was the highlight of the closing ceremony and earned one of our students, Ashley Wakefield, "best companion" award.

The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Language, Culture, and Study Abroad: What good will that do me?

Students often ask: Why should I learn a foreign language, and why should I study abroad? Below are excerpts from letters from language alums who offer convincing evidence of the life-long benefits of these experiences, both for them personally and for others whom they have influenced.

If you have stories similar to those below, we would love to hear from you. Send an email to Barry Thomas at thomasb@ohio.edu. Be sure to include "Say There" in the subject line.

Ruth Clearfield (MA Fr '76)

Bonjour: What a lovely surprise to receive my 2010 *Say There* Newsletter and to see the lovely write up on Bill and Marie-Claire Wrage. They were both excellent teachers!

It's hard to believe that it has been 35 years since I moved to College Station, Texas, after having just received my MA in French in 1976. In College Station I continued to take French courses here at Texas A&M University and in 1978 I joined an A&M Summer Study Abroad Program in La Rochelle. What a great experience. We (an undergraduate and I) lived with a French family who spoke NO English so it was a total French immersion. I still keep in touch with my French family. Please send my best regards to Lois Vines, another great teacher!!

Heather Herman (BA Ger '98); Study Abroad Programs: Salzburg '94; Mainz 97-98

The time that I spent abroad during my college career really shaped the person I am now. I will always see those adventures in Austria and Germany as some of the most wonderful of my life. I am now a caterer living in Cincinnati, married to my husband Paul, whom I met while he was attending medical school at OU, and my two children Holly nine and Franka five years old. Both of my children attend The Fairview Clifton German School here in Cincinnati, a public school that integrates German language and culture into the school day. We

also hosted a German exchange student this year! So, while German has not led to a career for me (I went to Culinary school in New York City) it is still a very important part of my life.

Hillary Brooks Kilfeather (BA Sp/BS in VisComm '96)

(Studied in Merida with Drs Burton and Torres, 1994) I moved to Atlanta in 1997 for a graphic design position at the newly created network CNN en Español. The position gave me the unique opportunity to utilize both of my degrees. I have happily been with CNN since, and am currently the Design Director for CNN International Networks. We recently re-branded CNN en Español - I was responsible for redesigning the newsroom/set as well as for art directing much of the on-air look and feel. Although I don't need to exclusively speak Spanish on a daily basis, it is all around me which I truly enjoy. My husband and I have a daughter, Violet, 4 and a son, Charlie, 1.

Rob Lewis (BA Ger '81); Study Abroad: Salzburg, '79/'81

The Study Abroad Program trips to Salzburg meant a great deal to me personally, and I view them as a highlight of my time at Ohio University (1977 to early 1981). I find it hard to believe it has been 32 years since I first participated, in 1979. Ironically, I have made only intermittent use of my German during my business career, but I credit my background in languages and passion for international travel for motivating me to continue with a master's in international business at Thunderbird, and a rewarding international business career. These study abroad programs are a fantastic opportunity for college students to learn a language, and even more importantly, really learn first hand what goes on in other countries. This type of international program is so important, no matter what field people wind up going into.

(Rob Lewis is International Sales Manager for Asia Pacific-Latin America, PDQ Manufacturing, Inc., a Dover Company, Green Bay, Wisconsin)

The Gift That Keeps On Giving, cont.

Andrea Lorkowski (BA Sp '07)

Study Abroad Programs: Pamplona, Spain (2004) & Merida, Mexico (through the Consortium of Overseas Student Teaching Program 2007)

After nearly five years of living in Yucatan, Mexico, I am a business owner and the English coordinator at a private high school in Valladolid, Yucatan. I teach English at all levels (from elementary to university) and started a study abroad program last year. In April 2011 I took a group of students to Toledo, Ohio for ten days. The students lived with host families, participated in school events, and got to know what the city had to offer. This year the study abroad program will take us to Phoenix (March-April 2012), where we will have our first true "intercambio." U.S. students will first visit us in Valladolid and two weeks later my Mexican students will visit Phoenix.

Michael Swaykus (Fr/BS Ed '72)

I studied abroad in Tours, France during the school year 1969-70. After graduation, I got a French teaching job and taught for two years, then left the teaching field to go into a family business venture. Twenty years later I got back into teaching and am in my 13th year as French teacher and foreign language dept. chair at Catholic Central High School in Steubenville, Ohio. In the year 2000 I initiated a France trip for my upper level students. I have taken groups of students to France 6 times and am already planning our next trip. My study abroad experience was probably the greatest experience any student could ask for. Three years ago when I was in France with one of my student tours, I decided to see if my host family might still be at the same address. They were! I called them on the phone and Mme LeSaux answered. I asked her if she still remembered me, she said 'of course', and that she still had a picture of me on her mantle! How cool is that? We had a great conversation for over a half hour. You can only imagine what a great memory that is. I owe the Modern Language Department at OU for inspiring me to pursue a career that I love deeply. I have been able to expose more than 100 of my students to travel in France, and most of them have expressed a desire to continue their study of French and to return to France. I am proud and thankful that my experience at OU has had a positive impact on quite a few people.

More News from Alums

Sandrine Teixidor (Fr MA '98) earned her Ph.D. in French at Duke University and is now an Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies at Randolph-Macon College. She co-edited a book, *Francophone Women: Between Visibility and Invisibility*, published in 2010.

Brenton Withers (Ger BA '06)

Well, I finally did it. I finished my studies in Münster and have found a job in Berlin. I found a nice apartment with two students in a district called Neukölln. It's very international here which means I'm fitting right in. I'm working as a technical writer at a company that creates software for digital displays and develops large scale touch technology. The team is great. You can see a sampling of what they do at www.q-bus.de <<http://www.q-bus.de>>. I'm mostly writing to pass along my contact info to anyone who doesn't have it yet:

Anzengruberstraße 20
12043 Berlin
Germany

Nicole Re (HTC French; English, BA '09) spent this past year teaching English in France and is now working on her Ph.D. at Ohio State University.

Caitlin Yocco (HTC French, BA '09) is in her second year of the M.A. French program at Miami University.

Carlos Baez (Sp MA '00) reports that he finished his Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature at the University of Minnesota, May 2010.

Tim Mollett (Sp MA '03) is the Spanish instructor at OU-Ironton.

Jason Rowsey (Sp MA '98) teaches Spanish at Westerville South HS.

Elizabeth Grassmann (Sp MA '11) has begun Ph.D. Studies at the University of Alabama.

Laura Schneckenberger (Sp MA '11) is teaching at Aquinas College.

In Remembrance

Martha O’Nan, Professor of French

Dr. Martha O’Nan was a professor at Ohio University from 1964-69. She taught French courses at all levels, including late 19th and 20th century literature. She authored several articles and reviews and was a frequent presenter at professional conferences. She also served on numerous departmental committees. In 1969 she was appointed to the faculty of the State University of New York (Brockport) as Professor and Chair of the French Department. Dr. O’Nan died at age 91 on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at her residence near Pleasureville, KY.

Department Fondly Remembers Karen Brown

We were saddened to learn of the death on January 3, 2010 of our long-time colleague and collaborator, Karen Brown, of Ohio University-Zanesville. Karen had retired in 2006, after teaching Spanish for 28 years, and in 2009 she was named Associate Professor Emerita of Modern Languages. Under Karen’s leadership, the Spanish program at OU-Zanesville inspired students to spend a summer studying abroad in Toledo, Spain, and Karen co-founded the Jordan-Brown Scholarship for International Education, which enabled students of limited financial means to participate in that program. She was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Colby College and, after earning a master’s degree in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she taught Spanish on the Janesville, Baraboo and Eau Claire campuses of the University of Wisconsin, in the Wisconsin public schools, and later at Muskingum University. She was a founding member and active participant in the Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance, our local collaborative for high school and college language teachers. Her passion for music led Karen to serve as manager of the Southeastern Ohio Symphony Orchestra, based at Muskingum University, from 1978 until 1999. She also volunteered for New Concord community projects and for social justice causes in the region. Karen’s students will remember her tireless devotion to their learning on campus, in Toledo, and on the phone from home. Colleagues will remember her cheerful friendliness and passion for language teaching.



Harriet Tong, Assistant Professor of French

Harriet Peebles Tong, 84, died on October 7, 2011 in Athens, Ohio. Professor Tong taught French in the Department of Modern Languages from 1989-94. She was an active member of the community French conversation group, La Causerie. After receiving her BA in French at Oberlin College in 1948 and her MA from Michigan in 1949, she enrolled at the University of California in Berkeley for a Ph.D. in Romance Languages. In 1971, she received her Ph.D. in Comparative Arts at Ohio University, the first doctorate awarded in that department.

Stuart John Ross

Stuart John Ross, 21 years, of Canton died unexpectedly on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 in an automobile accident. Stuart was born November 18, 1988 and was a 2007 graduate of GlenOak High School. At the time of his death he was enrolled to attend his fourth year at Ohio University working toward a certificate in Italian Cultural Studies. Our sympathy goes out to his family and many friends.

Stuart was known for his creativity, his love of history, music and sports and of course, a good joke. You are invited to join the many individuals and businesses who have honored Stuart’s life through contributions to the Stuart Ross Study-in-Italy Scholarship fund. Donations may be made through the Ohio University Foundation, PO Box 869, Athens, Ohio 45701. (See page 15.)

“Say There” Through The Ages: You’ve Come a Long Way, Baby!

1976-2011

The beginning was modest, but visionary. Patty Patten, a German alum working in the Development Office at the time, suggested to Phil Richardson, director of the language lab, that the department should promote itself through a newsletter. Phil and the lab secretary, Ruth Savage, put together the original "Say There" in 1976 as a mimeographed 5-page compilation of staff and alumni news. Phil continued as editor until his retirement in 1999. Since that first edition it has expanded to a 16-page chronicle of faculty, student and alum activities and accomplishments, no longer in mimeograph blue but now in full living color! The growth of the newsletter in content and format reflects the technological developments of the intervening decades, since it is now available not only in hard copy but also electronically at the departmental homepage:

<http://modlang.ohio.edu/>

Phil Richardson points out that “Say There” was part of a series of efforts (including Language Fair and Language Camp) to promote the Department of Modern Language in a time of decreasing enrollments. Phil re-

calls that “the original ‘Say There’ was informal and reflected the spirit of the times. We had a lot of fun putting it together and enjoyed the interaction with former labbies (student lab workers) and Modern Language alumni.”

While each new edition presents the highlights of the current academic year, the archival copies provide a rich history of the department over the past three and a half decades, an invaluable source for identifying former faculty and students. In this respect it complements other DML publications such as the “The Department of Modern Languages: A Bicentennial History 1804-2004” and “Study Abroad at Ohio University 1967-1999,” which are also available on the departmental homepage (see “About Us”).

When did you attend Ohio University? Did you study with any of the faculty listed in each edition? Do you recognize names of your fellow students? It can be quite interesting to go back to the earlier newsletters and recall many forgotten aspects of departmental life “back in the day.” Check it out!

Battle of The Tongues Back for 2011!

Our Department Engages in War on Hunger

In 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson made an historic speech at OU in which he announced the “War on Poverty.” During a recent visit to our campus on September 26, 2011, the Reverend Jesse Jackson reminded a large crowd that little progress has been made in winning the battle. Nationwide attention was drawn to the sad state of poverty in Southeast Ohio last summer in an NBC Dateline documentary on the subject, which won an Emmy award this fall. The Department of Modern Languages has rallied our students, professors, and staff to take action by participating in “The Battle of the Tongues Food Drive,” a project to collect non-perishable items for local food pantries and the homeless shelter. The languages taught in our department compete by classes to see which one can collect the most food; the winners are treated to a party with pizza donated by Little Italy Pizza in The Plains. Last year, as reported in *Say There*, more than 3500 items were collected for local organizations. The Athens County Food

Pantry sent a thank-you letter saying “The amount of food amassed was absolutely outstanding. Your gift will help fill our clients’ tables with nourishing fare for the upcoming fall and holidays.” A member of the volunteer staff at the homeless shelter also expressed appreciation: “This was and will be a great blessing to Good Works and a wonderful help to the people of our community.”

Adi King, an Assistant Professor of German, initiated the idea for the project. This fall he challenged the students to surpass last year’s total, and they met the challenge with 4225 items! The OU campus is an oasis of plenitude in which students are relatively isolated from the reality of poverty in the region. The “Battle of the Tongues Food Drive” helps students become aware of local hunger and offers them the opportunity to take concrete action by contributing food items that will help make a difference for many families (see pictures, back cover).

Alums in the News

The Ohio Foreign Language Association Recognizes Outstanding Achievement by OU Alums!



Deborah McCorkle (Fr BA '84)
Ohio Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Debbie McCorkle for her recognition by the Ohio Foreign Language Association as “Ohio Teacher of the Year”. Debbie teaches French at Unioto High School. She previously received the Leona Glenn Award for the Outstanding High School Teacher and recently earned the prestigious National Board Certification! Debbie is a professional member of AATF, OVFLA, OFLA and Delta Kappa Gamma, and has presented on topics such as French Presence in Missouri, Cameroon and Lyon. As she emphasizes, she likes “to present about places I’ve traveled to and how I incorporate this information in the classroom”. Debbie has studied abroad in France, Guadeloupe and Cameroon with several institutions, and received an NEH grant to study in Lyon. To share her love of culture and language, she has traveled with her students to France, Quebec, Luxembourg, Belgium, Switzerland and the Netherlands. One of her dreams is to earn a PhD from Middlebury some day.

Dr. Rita Stroempl (Fr BA '75)
Distinguished Career

For thirty-five years, Rita Stroempl has been a dedicated professional in the world language arena. She was an integral member of the Cleveland School System as both a classroom teacher and later as a supervisor. She directed professional development sessions for her teachers knowing each one individually by diligently observing them every year. She has attended and presented at many world language conferences discussing topics such as: The French Enlightenment, Thinking Outside the Box to Get Students Inside the Classroom, Interdisciplinary Lessons Emphasizing Connections to ELA and Social Studies. She has also lent her talents as a Foreign Language Assistance Program grant reader. She has served as a consultant for the Ohio Department of Education in a variety of capacities. As a Fulbright-Hays Scholar, she represented the United States in Thailand and Vietnam. You can read many of her thoughts and ideas in *The Cardinal*, OFLA’s publication. Even on the verge of retirement, Rita worked diligently to receive the designation of Master Teacher in 2010.

Faculty News

(For full bibliographical information on publications please see the departmental website)

Daniel Torres. This has been an exciting academic year. I was honored with the 2011 Certificate of Recognition from the Academy of American Poets, and was awarded the National Poetry Prize from the PEN Club of Puerto Rico for *De Bellaqueras*. 2010. My article on colonial poetry was included in *Letras Salvajes*, and four book reviews on new Puerto Rican authors appeared in digital journals. I continue to teach six courses a year on Latin American fiction, poetry, and theater, as well as a course on advanced conversation and composition. Co-directing the Mexico Study Abroad Program every winter remains one of my joys at Ohio University.

Vera Belousova. My article "Lost in Translation" appeared in *Novyi mir*, 2011.

David Burton. In April I presented "Amor in the *Conde Lucanor*: Relationships of Power and Trust" at the *Kentucky Foreign Language Conference*. University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY. During Winter Quarter I directed the Merida Study Abroad program for the 21st time.

Chris Coski. In March I presented "Rivarol's *De l'Universalité* (1783): French, the 'Genius' of Language, and a Global Identity" at the *Forging Linguistic Identities Conference*, Towson University. I also continue to work as an assistant editor of the *French Review*.

José Delgado. In April I gave a paper on "La carpintería de la soledad creadora" at *Kentucky Foreign Language Conference*. University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY.

Arthur Hughes. I participated in the session "Absence and Presence: The Here and There of Identity in Mia Couto's *Sleepwalking Land*." *International Conference on African Studies*. Ohio University, April 2011.

Emilia Marks. I was pleased to be promoted to Full Professor of Spanish in May 2011. During the past academic year I presented or co-presented several papers on cross-cultural sensitivity; attitudes and motivation in successful EFL learning; and vowel mutability in print in English and Spanish. I also authored or co-authored two articles on: "Perceived writing likes and needs in Spanish and English as Foreign Languages." *Hispania*, 93, 3; "Integrating communication skills: Meaningful projects for beginning writ-

ing and conversation students." *Ways and Modes of Human Communication. Colección estudios 129, XX.*

Barb Reichenbach. I presented three sessions at the April 2011 Ohio Foreign Language Association Conference": "Integrating Culture into Every Lesson."; "Tips for New Teachers."; "No Pain, Lots of Gain – Increase your Enrollments by Developing a Language Program in your Elementary Schools."

Herta Rodina. I received an Arts and Sciences Faculty Development Award to participate in "Teaching Languages through Social Networking," an 8-week online summer course offered by the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition at the University of Minnesota and I participated in the session "Using MS Word Tools for Feedback in Writing Assignments." *Computer Assisted Language Learning Conference*. Ohio University. April 2011.

Fred Toner. At the American Association of Teachers of French conference in Montreal I presented "The Face of Insecurity: Fear and Loathing in Sarkozy's France," July 2011. I also met with the Executive Council of the AATF as the new representative for Region V (East Central: Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Tennessee).

Tom Franz. This past year I published an article: "Valera's *Morsamor* as Anti-Orientalist Fiction"; and a review of *The Uncertainties in Twentieth-and Twenty-first Century Analytic Thought* by Barry L. Luby. I also presented a paper "Buero en Argentina: *El Tragaluz y La historia oficial*" at the Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures. My book on Antonio Machado was also published by Mellon Press.

Betsy Partyka. Article: "Desde lo oculto hacia la concientización: la naturaleza en la narrativa paraguaya contemporánea entre 1950-2000." *Scriptura* 21-22 (2011): 61-78. Paper: "La Querida y el poder en una novela paraguaya." Ohio Latin Americanist Conference. Bowling Green State University (February 2011).

Retired Faculty Feature

Maureen Weissenrieder, Professor of Spanish Emerita

They tell me that I am retired.



Four years ago, I submitted my retirement forms to the university with some ambivalence. I left the associate deanship of the College of Arts and Sciences after 10 years of duty with the regret that I would be leaving behind daily contact with wonderful colleagues and the broad spectrum of personal development opportunities that the position had offered me. But I also pined for a less rigid schedule and the possibility of fulfilling life-time dreams. I look back now gratefully to a career that prepared me for an active retirement.

I continue to pursue my passion: I teach. And I do so in more venues than previously possible. As an early retiree, I continue to offer advanced language and linguistic classes each spring quarter. OU students seem more engaged and interested than ever.

But perhaps there has been a change in me. With deeper experience, teaching seems more effortless, but more intentional. I now focus on the need of the individual, rather than that of the class, on the student desire to learn rather than on my need to perfect teaching technique.

I also spend a significant portion of my time offering workshops on language assessment under the auspices of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Although I have delivered these workshops for more than 25 years, I now have the opportunity to visit various institutions across the nation from universities to secondary and primary schools. It heartens me to see how the profession has come to accept common goals that cross institutional boundaries. With every workshop, I am privileged to meet dedicated, committed faculty and to see growth in the number of languages tested. This year, I am slated to deliver one of these workshops in Singapore. It is gratifying that the use of the Oral Proficiency Interview is now spreading abroad.

My interests have grown more global with passing time. In addition to visiting the Mayab program in Merida, Mexico in 2009 and a stint as study abroad director in Toledo, Spain in 2010, I began the life-long dream of traveling to various sites that represent the foundation of Western civilization. I started with a trip to Egypt in 2009 and plan future trips to Greece, Italy and Turkey. I am always amazed at the connections we come to realize when we travel. Seeing Egypt, for example, gave me a greater understanding of Arabic Spain and the underpinnings of many Christian beliefs. One learns that nothing is totally original.

When I have free time—which has not been often—I read, cook and garden. I so enjoy Athens' colorful springs and summers. I have been known to linger in my garden for hours and watch acrobatic hummingbirds battle over access to my flowers. I am only too glad to plant a variety of colors for them. It seems a peaceful respite, a needed balance to this busy period of life we call retirement.

OU Students Win Prestigious Teaching/Research Awards Abroad

Awards and Scholarships

Receiving Fulbright Teaching Assistantships are:

Jon Cinovec (English, Linguistics and Spanish) was awarded a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship in Cantabria, Spain.

In Germany: **Eric Geyer** (German/Psychology).

Learose Pinkham (German/Linguistics).

Luke Slager (German, History).

Two students won Fulbright awards to conduct research in Germany: **Chrissy Matzen (History/German minor)** will pursue research into the motivations and backgrounds of female concentration camp guards.; and Journalism major **Mathew Wagner** earned a special Fulbright award to Germany, the Beginning Professional Journalism Award.

In addition, **Garret Johnson** (Music) won a DAAD undergraduate scholarship to Germany, and **Sarah Zabka** (German Education) accepted a teaching award in Austria.

Beth Clodfelter, Director of U.S. Fulbright Programs for Ohio University, gave credit to the German language faculty for the students' successful Fulbright applications.

Language Honoraries

Delta Phi Alpha, National German Honor Society

Eight German Students Initiated into the Germany Honorary:

Patrick Bracken, Allen Flint, Benjamin Funk, Garrett Johnson, Laura Kim, Christina Matzen, Graylyn Roose, Michael Schnurr.

Congratulations to these new members!

Sigma Delta Pi, National Spanish Honorary

Nine Spanish students were initiated this year: **Stephanie Combs, Brigid Iverson, Claudia Ludi, Sally O'Brien, Crystal Reedy, Sarah Robles, Laura Straub, Sara Swaim.**

MARY T. NOSS SCHOLARSHIP

Amanda Brown, Catherine Caldwell, Danielle Flutz, Valerie Schrickel, Elisabeth Tippet, Camisha Vigil

MARY L. DURNION SCHOLARSHIP

Amie Davis, Alicia Eberts, Taylor Pool

GERMAN STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

Aaron Grassel, Breanna Carrero

WILKINSON OUTSTANDING JUNIORS AWARD

Catherine Caldwell, Jenna Garcgar, Rachel Grimm, Valerie Schoeppner

WILKINSON OUTSTANDING SENIORS AWARD

Meghan Devine, Kristina Hauptmann

OHIO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE ASSOCIATE OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

Grace Stout

OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSOCIATES

French: Kate Williams

Spanish: Rosa Piqueres Gilbert

OUTSTANDING MA STUDENT

Spanish: Denise Jenkins

FRENCH GOVERNMENT ASSISTANTSHIPS FOR TEACHING ENGLISH IN FRANCE

Leah Berger (Strasbourg), Meghan Devine (Dijon), Brad Evans (Poitiers), Kristine Hauptmann (Strasbourg), Megan Helgeson (Clermont Ferrand), Melissa McGill (Marseilles), Celeste Schiele (Orleans -Tours), Jamie Taylor (Lille), Katie Williams (Clermont Ferrand)

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



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(See related article, page 8)

Some of the 4225 items collected by students and faculty to fill the empty shelves at local food banks.

