During this academic year, five faculty members were recognized for distinction in teaching and advising. Mary Jane Kelley, Associate Professor of Spanish, won the Dean’s Outstanding Faculty Undergraduate Advising Award for her commitment to our students. Kelley’s attention to the details of converting courses and majors from quarters to semesters, her collection of data from the language placement exam, her dedication to advising students in the Spanish 200 level, and her willingness to meet with visiting high school students and their parents earned her this prestigious recognition from the College of Arts & Sciences.

Vera Belousova, Assistant Professor of Russian, was chosen to receive the Dean’s Outstanding Group II Faculty Award for her accomplishments in the Russian section of our department. In addition to teaching different levels of her native language, Belousova coordinated the section and recently directed a very successful study abroad program in Moscow. She created a new course on Russian fairytales and has designed the soon-to-be-proposed Russian Studies Certificate program.

Lois Vines, Professor of French, was selected for the Honors Tutorial College Distinguished Mentor Award for her work with seniors preparing their honors theses. Two of her students were invited to present their research projects, one a study of the Holocaust represented in children’s illustrated books in French and the other on the preservation of Occitan, a regional language in France, at the Ohio Foreign Language Association Annual Conference in Columbus.

Outstanding Graduate Faculty, a student-nominated award, was presented to Greg Kessler, Assistant Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Language Resource Center in Gordy. Kessler works closely with our department in the area of instructional technology and teaches graduate courses our students take. Kessler was praised for playing an important role in developing language-learning materials for use with new technologies and preparing students and teachers to use them. As the recipient of this award Kessler will serve as the Graduate Commencement speaker in June.

Bärbel Such, Assistant Professor of German, received the Arts and Sciences Dean’s Outstanding Teacher Award in recognition of her excellence in teaching, directing the study abroad program in Austria, and leading extra-curricular activities related to German. As part of the course “German Drama on Stage” she worked with students of varying levels to produce Arthur Schnitzler’s drama “The Green Cockatoo” in German. She and her students transformed one of the Gordy Hall classrooms into a very realistic café scene where high drama took place for an hour.

The Department of Modern Languages is very proud of the high quality teaching and advising that contributes to the success of our students in all the languages we teach.
Greetings From the Chair 2009-10

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to another edition of Say There. This year has flown by, keeping us busy with the many trials and tribulations of the budget, the upcoming quarter-to-semester switch, and the numerous accomplishments of our distinguished faculty and students. In the following pages you will read that our faculty continues to impress the university community with many well-deserved advising and teaching awards, our study abroad programs continue to grow, alumni meet new and exciting challenges in their careers, and faculty and students are constantly “in the news.”

As I enter my second year as chair, we continue to modify our website. With the creativity of Stephanie Buechele, we now boast a new site at: http://modlang.ohio.edu/. Please visit us there and send us your news so we can add photos, articles, and Twitter comments. We welcome your reactions and suggestions.

Despite the budget cuts last year, we were able to maintain our program integrity and add to our faculty. We welcome Spanish Linguistics faculty member Muriel Gallego, recently graduated from Purdue University. We are also pleased to have Chrystian Zegarra and Deb Cunningham as visiting Spanish faculty members. This year, well over 100 students participated in our study abroad programs, and the numbers of students discovering the thrills of language, culture and literature continue to increase as more and more declare majors and minors. The Italian Studies Certificate Program is flourishing and the Portuguese Program remains strong, with a new site for summer studies in Florianópolis, Brazil.

All in all, we had a very challenging and exciting year. As always, we look forward to hearing more about you as we receive your news on line and in Say There. Many thanks to all of you who keep in touch and support our endeavors to expand student opportunities. Even a small donation from many alumni will make a difference in the lives of our students, who are often transformed by a study abroad or internship experience.

On behalf of our faculty and students, I wish you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Betsy Partyka
Study Abroad

Austria (Salzburg: Director Bärbel Such)
One student described our spring quarter abroad as “simply spectacular.” We were a group of 18 people, all eager to explore the lovely city of Salzburg, meet Austrians and conquer the dialect, indulge in local delicacies, become seasoned travelers of Europe, and marvel at our own ability to see and learn so much in just 10 weeks. Whether visiting Munich, Berlin, or Vienna, cheering the Red Bulls at a soccer game, becoming experts on Schnitzel, groaning under our rigorous class schedule, or viewing a play at the Salzburg theater, we came away from this trip with unforgettable memories and experiences. For pictures of the Spring 2010 program, please visit the program website at http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~such/sbg10/.

Brazil (Director: Betsy Partyka)
We changed site to the beautiful Florianópolis in the state of Santa Catarina. Five graduate students participated in this home-stay program and took courses in advanced grammar as well as a Brazilian culture course. The group visited Iguassu Falls and various other sites. Several members stayed in South America after the program to continue research on projects they are finishing this year.

Canada (Québec City)
This Summer five students participated in the Québec program at the Université de Laval. With organizing help from the Office of Education Abroad and the Department of Modern Languages, the students took the required placement exam and then enjoyed classes in phonetics, literature and language. They participated in excursions with Laval students and stayed with Quebecois families. We look forward to continuing our affiliation with Laval.

Ecuador (Director, Leah Vincent)
Sixteen students traveled to Ecuador spring quarter and stayed with host families in the Andean city of Cuenca while attending classes at the Center for International Studies (CEDEI). Students were exposed to the unique and incredible diversity of this small country. The host family experience enabled students to rapidly improve language skills, challenge everyday assumptions about cultural norms, and build relationships while learning about politics, history, and culture.

France (Avignon: Directors Katy Adair; assistant Helen van Doren)
For the fifth consecutive year Avignon, Cité des Papes, hosted eighteen 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, literature, and Cinematographic and Literary Memories of the French Resistance. Students were housed with local families and had the opportunity to meet with a correspondent from the university. Excursions included overnight trips to the Vieux Port in Marseille and Serre Chevalier, an Alpine ski retreat where the group bundled up for snowshoeing and sledding.

Italy (Florence: Director Molly Morrison)
In this second year of the “Italian in Florence” program, fourteen Ohio University students spent eight weeks studying intensive Italian language, culture, and literature. Students live in the historic center of Florence and participate in excursions and activities that enrich their experience outside the classroom. Our excursions included Rome, Venice, San Gimignano, Siena, Cinque Terre, and the islands of Giglio and Giannutri. Visits to museums, historical sites and churches of Florence enabled students to learn more about the culture and history of the city. Other activities included a tour of a Tuscan vineyard and winery, Italian cooking classes, viewing of Italian literary dramatizations, coffee lessons and tastings, and walks through the Renaissance gardens of Florence. Participants earned sixteen credits while in Italy.
Mexico (Mérida: David Burton & Daniel Torres, Co-Directors)
Forty-eight undergraduate Bobcats studied in Mérida during Winter 2010, the 31st year of the program. Five “second-timers” held internships with such organizations as the city government, an advertising agency, and MegaMedia. The two TAs were Cassaundra Hickman and Eloisa Alcocer. 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. This year marked Dr. Burton’s twentieth year as director.

Puerto Rico Winter Intersession Program (Director, José Delgado)
Nine intrepid OU students traveled to Puerto Rico last December for a twenty-one day cultural immersion. In addition to hearing lectures by Puerto Rican scholars, and with the help of a sturdy and reliable “guagua” they criss-crossed the island, visiting seventeen towns, national and federal parks, museums, science stations, sports events, and fairs. Of course, there were the obligatory beach stops as well. The University of Puerto Rico, Aguadilla hosted the program.

Russia (Director, Vera Belousova)
In spring 2010 a group of thirteen students studied in Moscow. The students’ challenge began immediately: living with host families, they had to use their Russian on the very first day. In the morning students took classes in Russian with faculty of the Kitaigorodskaya Center for Foreign Language Instruction; in the afternoon they took classes in Russian history, culture and literature with Dr. Belousova. Weekly excursions included historical sites, museums, art galleries, and churches as well as out-of-town trips to the Tolstoy estate and four days in St. Petersburg. Other activities included a concert in the Moscow Conservatory and the famous Chaikovski ballet Swan Lake. Halfway through the program one of the students remarked to me, “Every day here is bittersweet, because we still have five weeks left, but five weeks have already passed....”

Spain (Toledo: Directors Winter—Maureen Weissenrieder; Spring—Carisa Trapp; Summer—Tim Abeln)
Winter: Our Winter Quarter 2010 stay in Toledo was more than awesome. Toledo is a museum of a city that transported us to the time of the Inquisition’s tribunals, mystics like Santa Teresa de Avila, Garcilaso de la Vega’s poetry and El Greco. But Spain’s Golden Age is only one historic period that Toledo has witnessed. The Mozarabic art, evident in historic Toledo’s architecture, reflects a medieval past where Arabs, Jews and Christians lived side by side in a tenuous peace. The medieval level then peels away to reveal ubiquitous Roman ruins. Our students benefited greatly from their experience as they went through stages of awe, culture shock and personal growth. Students who initially were hesitant to travel by themselves became fearless independent European travelers, resolving totally unpredictable challenges, negotiating frustrating cultural adjustments and opening up to new friends, families and experiences.

Spring: In the spring, thirteen students traveled to Spain to live with host families and attend classes at the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha. Students participated in excursions to Madrid, Segovia, Aranjuez and El Escorial. Additionally, we had the opportunity to see Mario Vargas Llosa receive an honorary doctorate degree from the Universidad and listen to his reflections on the meaning of culture. We also experienced Corpus Christi, during which the city’s streets were beautifully decorated in the weeks preceding the religious procession.

Summer: Twenty students studied abroad in Toledo this summer. The students received a unique cultural experience as they witnessed Spain become the World Cup champion for the first time in the country’s history. The program culminated with the students writing, directing and starring in a five-scene play based on their experiences studying in Toledo, which they performed at the closing ceremony. As one professor said, this summer’s group from Ohio was one of our most “extrovertido” groups.
Ursula Lawson: Dedicated Teacher, Supportive Colleague, True Friend

German Study Abroad Program Founder and Director Dies at 89

We are saddened to report the death of our colleague and friend, Professor emerita of German Ursula Lawson, who succumbed to a heart attack on September 12, 2010. Born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1921, Ursula came to the US following World War II. After some time teaching at the high school level, she went on to earn a PhD at Vanderbilt University. In 1967 she accepted a position at Ohio University, where she taught until her retirement in 1991.

In cooperation with Bowling Green State University she helped establish our year-long program for advanced students in Salzburg and was the first OU director in 1969-70. Sensing a need to offer first and second years students a similar opportunity, in 1973 she established a spring quarter program in Karlsruhe; this program moved to Salzburg in 1975, where it still flourishes today.

Ursula is remembered for her dynamic and creative personality, which expressed itself daily in her teaching. In addition to offering courses from beginning through the graduate level, she established a tradition of German theater performances that both challenged the students and delighted the audiences.

After her retirement she continued to express her creativity and vigor through her newfound passion for painting. Her works reflect her fine sense of space and color and have been exhibited around the state. She was quite active in the local art scene and contributed much time to the Ohio University Kennedy Museum and the Dairy Barn.

Ursula was a dedicated teacher, a perceptive scholar, and a good friend. Perhaps her greatest and most lasting contribution to the German program was her untiring dedication to offering our students the opportunity to study abroad. This dedication was recognized at her retirement party in 1991 with the following lines:

If you’re well inclined to Germanic delights,
To Alphorns resounding from snowy-capped heights,
Then it’s Ursula Lawson you owe a great debt to:
When all’s said and done, I’m willing to bet you
That the program in Salzburg would have long ago perished
If for twenty-five years she hadn’t so cherished
The chance for her students to look with new eyes on
The world that exists beyond Athens’ horizon.
For 10 weeks a year she left Minka, her dog,
So our kids could eat Schnitzel and “Kuchen mit Schlag”,
And she guided the fortunes of the lucky few chosen
To study with Mozart and wear Lederhosen.
So we now raise a glass in grateful praise
As this friend and good colleague begins a new phase.
You’ve given so much of yourself and your time
There’s no adequate way to say this in rime,
So instead I will close with everyday prose:
Thank you!
Danke Schön!

Ursula will be missed by the community, her colleagues and her many friends.

Contributions in honor of Dr. Lawson may be made to the Dairy Barn Arts Center, PO Box 747, Athens, OH 45701; or to the “Austria Study Abroad Fund”, Ohio University Foundation, PO Box 869, Athens, OH 45701
German Drama on Stage: Arthur Schnitzler’s *Der grüne Kakadu* in Gordy Hall!

After a long hiatus, Winter quarter 2010 saw the revival of the German 235 course—German Drama on Stage. For the performance, director Professor Bärbel Such and her assistant, Johannes Rankl, our teaching assistant from Salzburg, selected Arthur Schnitzler’s 1898 one act play *Der grüne Kakadu*. Typical for the Viennese dramatist’s recurring theme of the tension between appearance and reality, the play, set during the start of the French Revolution, takes place in a bar where actors perform as violent criminals to entertain the bar’s aristocratic patrons, who get a kick out of mingling with the underworld. Everything changes, however, when on July 14th the real commotion on the streets becomes indistinguishable from the performances in the bar. After a quarter practicing drama techniques, intensive language training, and many rehearsals the student thespians put on a truly amazing show. Through clever lighting and an impromptu stage, an ordinary Gordy Hall classroom was transformed into a real theater, where a standing-room only audience was treated to a stellar performance. Professor Such and her troop of actors and actresses definitely earned a standing ovation. Schnitzler’s bourgeois characters might have said “Es lebe die Freiheit (Long live freedom),” but a better line might be “Es lebe Deutsch 235!”

**Alums! If you would like to support students in study abroad or creative activities, see pages 14 & 15.**

OU Alum Presents at Annual OVFLA Meeting

Language teachers from southeastern Ohio were inspired by OU alumna Terri Marlow (BA Spanish ‘71), the featured presenter at the 27th annual meeting of the Ohio Valley Foreign Language Alliance held at Ohio University on October 23rd. Marlow’s presentation, delivered to a standing-room-only audience, provided participants with both a theoretical framework and some very practical suggestions for “Using Authentic Documents to Develop Reading Proficiency.” After graduating from OU, Marlow earned an MA from Michigan State University and currently teaches Spanish in the Parkersburg, West Virginia school district. She has received recognition as “the West Virginia Foreign Language Association Outstanding Teacher” and “Favorite Educator” of several students in the West Virginia Governor’s Honors Academy programs. She has served as consultant and workshop leader for the national AP Spanish program, as well as presenting regularly at national and regional conferences. As OVFLA Co-director and Associate Professor of Spanish Mary Jane Kelley observed, “Ohio University’s Department of Modern Languages was proud to bring Terri back to campus to share her ideas with OVFLA participants. Her professional accomplishments and expertise reflect so well on our programs.”

Helping Our Community, One Can at a Time

The Department of Modern Languages at Ohio University strives to introduce students to world languages and cultures. During Fall Quarter 2010 the department helped increase students’ awareness of poverty and food insecurity closer to home in Appalachia through our First Annual Battle of the Tongues Food Drive. Classes competed for top honors and collected more than 3500 items, which were distributed to several area agencies, including United Campus Ministry’s Thursday Dinner, the Athens Tornado Relief Fund, Good Works, and the Athens County Food Pantry. The idea for the project came from Adi King, Assistant Professor of German, who organized the food collection with the help of our students, faculty, and staff. A longer article about the “Battle” will appear in the next *Say There*.
—Shea Daniels contributed to this article.
Challenge for The Future: Change to Semesters

As Ohio University prepares to move from a quarter-based academic calendar to semesters in fall 2012, the faculty members in the Department of Modern Languages have been reviewing and revising courses and programs to ensure that we maintain academic quality under semesters. The transition represents the first major revision to OU’s academic calendar since 1968, when we moved from semesters to quarters. The recent change began as a recommendation in 2007 from newly appointed Eric Fingerhut, Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, who, along with Governor Ted Strickland, envisioned a University System of Ohio, under which state-funded universities would offer students the possibility of “seamless transfer of credits among universities in the system.” At that time, the University of Cincinnati, Ohio State, and OU constituted the few remaining quarter-system schools in the state. At OU, the President and Provost supported the recommended change, and the Board of Trustees approved the transition in October 2008. Cincinnati and OSU will also switch to semesters in 2012. OU’s fall semester will begin on the fourth Monday of August and offer fourteen weeks of classes followed by a one-week final exam period. After a four-week winter break, spring semester will begin in mid-January and end in early May. Two seven-week sessions in June and July will provide students the opportunity to make progress toward their degrees during summer.

Graduation Luncheon 2010 Celebrated with “Bagpipes and Fire-Bells!”

This year’s graduation luncheon on Saturday, June 12, was very special. At 11:30 a.m., as the graduating seniors in Modern Languages and their guests were starting to partake of the delicious lunch provided by our department, the fire alarm in Gordy went off and everyone had to evacuate to the street. Three fire trucks immediately made a loud and dramatic appearance. While waiting for the building to be inspected, graduates took photos of each other in front of the big red engines. We were allowed back into the building at noon with the warning that we might have to evacuate again if the ear-piercing signal sounded, although the first time it was a false alarm.

Everyone relaxed and had a good time, soon forgetting that they might have to finish their lunch outdoors as a picnic in the hot, humid weather. At 1:00 the students, responding to a secret signal unbeknownst to their parents, slipped outside the front door of Gordy and were led into the luncheon hall to the sound of bagpipes expertly played by our resident piper, Adi King, a faculty member in German. As the students followed the “Pied Piper of Athens” (leading the graduates not into the dark, mysterious mountains of Hameln but rather to a bright new beginning), the guests responded with clapping, laughter, and a shiver of emotion at the sound and sight of the joyful parade. The 2010 graduates will long remember their send-off accompanied by bells and whistles.

OU Hosts 9th Ohio Latin Americanist Conference

Ohio University’s Latin American Studies program hosted the 9th annual Ohio Latin Americanist Conference, Feb. 26-27. This conference marked the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Latin American Studies program at Ohio University, the only graduate degree program in the state of Ohio focused on the region.

“Modern Latin America: The Blurring of Ideological Platforms” included a keynote presentation by Sarah Stephens, Director of the Center for Democracy in the Americas. Conference sessions featured over 100 faculty, students and other experts in the field from Ohio institutions such as Xavier, UC, John Carrol, OSU, Akron, Dayton, Denison, Ohio Wesleyan and OU, as well as universities in West Virginia, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee. The conference concluded with a Latin concert and dance night. Stephens, a well-known advocate for change in U.S. policy toward Cuba, started the Freedom to Travel program in 2001, working to lift the ban on U.S. travel to Cuba. She has led delegations of U.S. policymakers, academics, experts, and philanthropists to Chile, Cuba and Venezuela on fact-finding and research missions relating to U.S. foreign policy. Her work has been supported by the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Arca Foundation and the Christopher Reynolds Foundation, among others. Son del Caribe, an Ohio-based salsa band, concluded the conference with a concert and Latin dance night. The band is led by Jaime Morales, music professor at Miami University and experienced salsa musician from Puerto Rico, who has played with salsa greats such as Eddie Palmieri and Gilberto Santa Rosa.
Jonathan Leal

Congratulations to Jonathan Leal, whose Athens-based company, Milo’s Whole World Gourmet, has been recognized with the 2010 Governor’s Excellence Award in Exporting. Milo’s, makers of the Vino de Milo line of wine-based specialty food, is one of only 20 Ohio companies to be recognized with the 2010 Governor’s Excellent Award in Exporting, and is the only food company in the group (which includes aerospace companies and many industrial manufacturers).

The company currently exports to Canada, Japan, and Kuwait, and is in negotiations with several additional countries.

“We’re thrilled and honored by this award, which recognizes the hard work our entire company has put in to building our business internationally,” said founder Jonathan Milo Leal. In 2009, export sales made up 20% of the company’s business, and have been growing from year to year.

Acclaimed by “The Today Show” online and the Chicago Sun-Times among others, Vino de Milo’s line of wine-based specialty foods has won rave reviews from retailers and food critics nationwide. The company currently produces five wine-based pasta sauces, seven wine-based salad dressings, and three wine-based bruschetta toppings.

As a child growing up in Nepal and Mexico, Jonathan gained a deep appreciation for food and the role it plays in the cultures of the world. His passion for food expanded even more as he studied and lived abroad, spending significant amounts of time in more than 20 countries. After earning an BA in French Education (1998), MA in French (2000) and an MBA (2001) from Ohio University, Jonathan began Milo’s, now in its seventh year.

“The years I spent in Modern Languages (at Ohio University) were among the best of my life, and I’m thrilled to be doing something international with my career. For our Canadian French labels, I did the entire first draft in French, and had our importer make minor changes — it was rewarding being able to do that. The overall sensitivity to other cultures was a cornerstone of my training in Ellis (and then Gordy), and has served me well in my international negotiations.”
Muriel Gallego: New Tenure-track Spanish Professor

Dr. Muriel Gallego comes to us from Rosario, Argentina via Purdue University, where she earned her MA in Latin American Literature, a Graduate Certificate in English as a Second Language, and her PhD in Spanish Applied Linguistics. Her dissertation, “Focus on Form through a Dictogloss Task: Exploring its Effects on the Acquisition of the Spanish Subjunctive,” studies how instructional techniques that require students to focus on subjunctive forms facilitate acquisition of one particularly difficult grammar point. In addition to second language acquisition, Dr. Gallego’s research/teaching interests include dialectology and a wide range of Latin American cultural phenomena, especially those related to the Río de la Plata region. At OU, Dr. Gallego will coordinate the first-year Spanish program, supervise graduate teaching assistants, and teach classes related to applied linguistics.

Daniel Torres

The success of my book of poetry De bellaqueras has been surprising. I was invited to read and lecture in California, Chicago, and San Juan. At the Claremont Colleges, at De Paul University and at the Festival de la Palabra I read my creative work to a variety of audiences. Last fall 2009, I traveled to the University of Oregon where I presented a paper on my ongoing research project dealing with the construction of a Creole identity in the poetry of Don Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora (1645-1700) at the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry.

Emilia Alonso Marks

I had a wonderful year! I co-presented a paper on heritage Spanish speakers with my Honors Tutorial student, Jaime Moore, at an International Conference on Bilingualism and Multilingualism in School Students, Sevilla, Spain, March 2010. I was a guest speaker at the Universiti Utara Malaysia in June. My talk was about integrating communication skills in the foreign language classroom. I co-authored an article on writing likes and needs for students of English and Spanish as foreign languages, which was accepted for publication in Hispania. Now I am getting ready to present a paper at the ACTFL Conference in Boston next November.

Mary Jane Kelley

I taught fall and winter quarters here in Gordy Hall, after which Ohio University granted me a Faculty Fellowship Leave for spring. I took advantage of the time away from teaching and service to write an article on language testing, which I have submitted for publication. During my leave, I returned to campus to participate in the annual Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) conference by presenting a paper on video in the language classroom. I was honored to receive the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Faculty Undergraduate Advising Award for 2009-10.

Chris Coski

My book manuscript, From Barbarism to Universality: Language and Identity in Early Modern France, has been accepted for publication by the University of South Carolina Press and is scheduled to appear in December 2011. Last spring I presented a paper at the University of Kentucky on Voltairian historiography, and this March I will give a paper at Towson University in Maryland on language and identity in Rivarol’s De l’Universalité de la langue française. I spent this past year working as an assistant editor in literature for the French Review.

Lois Vines

My article “Recent Astérix: Franco-American Relations and Globalization” was published in Contemporary French Civilization (winter/spring 2010). My book on Astérix will be published by the University of Toronto Press in 2011.
We were fortunate to join the faculty of the Department of Modern Languages in 1969, when it was often difficult for a couple to be hired in the same department. In addition to teaching on campus we also enjoyed the opportunity to direct the study abroad program in France for 15 years.

Marie Claire: I was pleased to discover the kindness and beauty of America when I arrived from France in 1959, full of prejudices and determined to go home to France after verifying them. With the chance to teach, and to work together with great colleagues, in a situation where teaching, research and service were held in a pleasant balance, those 30 some years went past like lightning, parallel with the experience of bringing up our two sons in the Athens community.

Retirement, as we had been told, is an even busier time. It’s been great to explore other countries on our own. Now there is almost enough time to read things other than required texts, to play with our three granddaughters, and to participate in community activities, especially at the Athens County Animal Shelter.

I also have been doing some translation work, including an English version of my father’s memoirs of his life as a prisoner in Germany during World War I, and the recollections of a Jewish woman friend of mine during World War II. I also do adoption papers for Haitian children.

Bill: I began my academic career as a pre-med student, never dreaming I’d end up with a PhD in French and art history and spend most of my life teaching the language. Perhaps the best of my student years was the one I spent on a Fulbright Fellowship at the Université de Dijon, where I discovered France and the French. That was a life-changing experience for me, and I was pleased to be able to offer the same opportunity to the Ohio University students Marie Claire and I took to study in Tours for the spring quarter.

After early retirement in 1996, in addition to teaching one quarter a year until 2006, I’ve done most of the things I never had time for: about 20 courses in painting and drawing, all of the courses offered in German, and three years of Italian at OU. I’ve attended over a dozen summer programs in Germany and Austria and traveled extensively in Germany with German friends. Oriental art history has become a strong interest; I’ve seen the major collections in the US, France and Germany. In addition, we’ve been to China, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, Morocco and India (three times!).

Teaching is a gift that keeps on giving. Many students have kept in contact, some come back to visit, and from time to time one from whom we haven’t heard in years sends an e-mail or calls. A student, who I thought had not really enjoyed studying with us in France, wrote some 20 years after his experience that his stay in France had profoundly changed his life (thankfully for the better), and he wanted us to know about it. A much appreciated e-mail. At home I have continued gardening as much as three hours a day. When I took early retirement, the graduate students gave me 300 jonquil bulbs for my garden. The bulbs have been fruitful and have multiplied, now producing well over a thousand blossoms every Spring. Nice reminders of students past.

We are always pleased to hear from former students about their families and careers.

—Marie-Claire Wrage, Associate Professor emerita (mcwrage@gmail.com)
—Bill Wrage, Professor emeritus (wmwrage@gmail.com)
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.

Fulbright Research Fellowship Awarded to Alum in Our Department

Roger Anderson (BA French 2007; MA French 2009) was selected by the National Fulbright Committee to carry out a research project in Morocco. While at OU Anderson studied Arabic along with French, languages that supported his research proposal in a highly competitive selection process. In addition to the Fulbright Fellowship, Anderson received a Critical Language Enhancement Award to help him perfect his competence in Modern Standard Arabic and Moroccan Colloquial Arabic, tools he needs to live in Fez for a year and conduct his research on a manuscript he is translating into English. The 14th-century jurist al-Harrali wrote a text in which he advocated the abolition of slavery many centuries before an enlightened Europe explored the idea. Translating and analyzing the document is a complex endeavor which Anderson is working on with the help of an expert on Medieval Islamic texts at the Arabic Language Institute of Fez. Living with a Moroccan host family has given Anderson a first-hand experience with the local language and culture. He is constantly impressed by the richness and diversity of the Arabic language, which make his learning fascinating and challenging.

Scholarships & Awards

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Heather Pittman
Myriam Rompel (Mainz Exchange Teaching Assistant, 2003-04)
I finished my “Referendariat” two years ago and am now teaching at a “Gesamtschule” in Bad Camberg, which is 40 km from Frankfurt. I am lucky to teach our bilingual class this year in German and English. Other subjects (biology, geography, politics - depending on how many teachers are available) are also taught in English. In the spring of 2012 we’ll do an exchange with a high school in West Lafayette, Indiana - at least I hope so because they do not have so many students who take German classes anymore.

Rob Lewis (BA German 1981)
I was in Deutschland 9-17 September for the Automechanika trade show in Frankfurt. I visited with Bruce Rienstra and his family in Amsterdam on the way home.

Mary Caffrey Knapke (BA German/BS Journalism, 1995)
Since graduating, I have worked in Germany and studied at Trinity College Dublin (Ireland). I also earned a master’s in Irish Studies from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and worked as a U.S. State Department intern at the American Embassy in Dublin. I returned to Ohio to work as coordinator of study abroad for the University of Dayton and then moved into marketing. Currently, I work as a freelance writer and online English instructor. I have very fond memories of Salzburg and all that I learned there.

Sarah Knuckles (BA German 2006)
In June, I finished an MA in German Studies at the University of Cincinnati; as part of that program, I did have a TAship and taught introductory German. I spent last year studying with the VDAC in Berlin. So, I finally know what the German university system is like. Since I was in Germany, I did manage to get to Salzburg for that reunion. I do miss OU and Athens. Gruesse an alle in Athens.

Sarah Zimmerman (BA French/International Studies 2002)
I studied abroad in Tours and Dakar. I am currently finishing my PhD at UC Berkeley in West African history, focusing on the social history of the tirailleurs sénégalais who served in the French empire. I am also lecturing on African History at San Francisco State University.

Robin Demske Fraser (BA French 1991, MA French 1996)
I have two children now, Duncan, age 9, convinced that he will be a paleontologist or scientist of some sort, and daughter Ainsley, 7, the artist of the family. They are both so much fun. I was working in export for a housewares company and earned by customs broker license. I was on the Board of Directors of the French American Chamber of Commerce, Northeast Ohio Chapter, and continue to be a member. After taking a couple of years off from work, I was able to get my present job as a Global Trade Analyst, which allows me to work from home part time.

Marda Rose (BA Spanish/French, 1996)
Marda is currently a PhD candidate in Hispanic Linguistics at Indiana University. Her research interests include second language acquisition, interlanguage pragmatics, and second language phonology. She is also the founder and director of Grupo de Teatro VIDA, a Spanish-language performance group based in Bloomington, Indiana, which promotes language learning by bringing together learners and native speakers of Spanish in the performance of live theater.

Cristina (Tina) Lyons (BA Spanish/Ed 2009)
returned to town in August after accepting a position Spanish at Athens High School, where she joins fellow Bobcats Sherri Dunfee and Todd Frye as members of the Spanish staff.

completed his PhD in Early Modern Iberian Spanish Literature and Culture at the Ohio State University in 2009. He currently serves as Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Languages at St. Michael’s College in Burlington, Vermont, where he resides with his wife and three children.
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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: __________________________________________

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Language(s) Studied At OU: __________________________
Year of graduation from OU: _________________________

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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. Be sure to include “Say There” in the subject line of your e-mail. Thank you.

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