A word from Our Chair, Dr. Michael Sawyer

Goodbye Spring, Hello Summer!

As we wrap up the spring 2009 semester and prepare for a busy summer term, I have to reflect on all the outstanding achievements of our students and faculty. Our Modern Languages students just seem to continually increase their successes. In addition to all of the scholarship winners listed in this newsletter, our graduates have been out in the world making a name for themselves and doing a great job representing UCM. Last year, two UCM alums—Courtland Mills and Stephen Lightle—received full scholarships to participate in a year-long graduate Teach and Learn program in Madrid. This year, three more have been accepted and will begin in the fall: Cale Johnson, Kacey Norfleet, and Brandon Reynolds. Rebecca Dellheim has been offered a one year teaching position in Angers, France. Congratulations to all of you!

We held our second annual Foreign Language Film Contest on March 27th, 2009. About 40 films were submitted. There were 300 student participants and 10 schools represented. Filmmakers, Kevin Willmott from the University of Kansas and Joshua Asen, documentary filmmaker from New York were the featured speakers.

Our faculty have been very busy as well, both with research projects and with continually improving and revamping our language programs to make them more effective and advantageous to students. Drs. Della Goavec and Monty Laycox are hard at work revising and streamlining the French curriculum, and Dr. Joshua Davis has been instrumental both in leading the German program and in instituting a new group study abroad program in Dusseldorf, Germany. We expect to send our first students there in summer 2010. Unfortunately for us, Dr. Davis has accepted a position at another university and will not be returning in the fall. It’s a great opportunity for him, though, and we all wish him the best of luck and our sincerest congratulations.

Scholarships

Elizabeth Callaway Award: Given through the UCM Foundation for a student majoring in Spanish. Made possible thanks to a gift from Michelle Schulze, a French alumna, for a student majoring in French.

Cassidy Temm

Amanda McCullough

Cassidy Temm

Dr. Ruth Doyle Memorial Scholarship: Made possible thanks to a gift from Michelle Schulze, a French alumna, for a student majoring in French.

Cassidy Temm

Dalsy Deliens Brown Scholarship: Made possible by way of memorial gifts from the family and friends of Dalsy Deliens Brown for students in Spanish

Paula Lombardo

Dr. Kenneth A. Gordon Scholarship: Made possible thanks to a gift from Dr. Kenneth A. Gordon for students in education.

Cassidy Temm

Study Abroad: This new scholarship is given to students, in French or Spanish, who will be
More Awards

participating in one of the study abroad trips organized by the Dept. of Modern Languages. This year’s recipients were: L-R Shawna Edwards Miller; Tess Allman; Caitlin Keith; Not pictured, Rebekah Masters, Morgan McMullen

Departmental Achievement Awards: Granted by UCM’s academic departments in recognition of students’ potential or outstanding performance in a given academic area.

Shannon Piehl, Angela Smith, Chris Peterson, Caitlin Keith, Lisa Kruse, Alissa Krug

Outstanding Student Awards

This year we also recognized the following students for their outstanding performance during the semester:

Chinese: Renee Todd, Robert Bensinger
French: Danielle Nabintu Zaluke, Casey McElroy, Justine Harris, Alina Flores, Ameer Enders, Shu Neisha Williams, Cassidy Temm, Rebecca Dellheim

German: Krista Pezley, Frederic Wickham, Shannon Piehl, Dessa Crum, Corbia Davis

Spanish: Sierra Schnakenberg, Caitlin Simmons, Yuka Minaminaka, Brittany Neier, Cambrie Maxwell, Victoria Uhrzander, Stephanie Euer, Jacqueline Kendrick, Kierra Walker, Erin May, Derek Luttrell, Brianna Snell, Danielle M. Eggers, Tyson D. Wheeler, Norman J. Betz, Katie A. Brecklin, Stacey Millus, Emily Stern, Caitlin Keith, Shawa Edwards, Elizabeth Wylie, Rae Ellis, Daniel Schweger, Jennifer Hayes, Danielle Georgina Edwards, Elizabeth Wylie, Rae Ellis, Daniel Schweger, Jennifer Hayes, Danielle Georgina Edwards

Outstanding Majors and Minors

French & Spanish Major: (Right) Cassidy Temm
French Minor: Sha Neisha Williams
German Minor: Adam Edmonson
Spanish Minor: Caitlin Keith

Anne Gardner Harris Award

This award is given to outstanding senior students in French and Spanish. Pictured Left to Right: Cale Johnson, Mark Garcia, Shawna Edwards Miller, Rebecca Dellheim (Not pictured)

Students on the Move

Leah Cully was accepted for an internship in Mexico. She will be interning for a company called *Vasken Contractors* in Monterrey, Mexico and staying with a family there. She will be in the HR department or Finance department, working 8-10 hour days, for 8 weeks, May 25-July 17. The International Business Internship Exchange (IBIE) is through Webster University, which also offers internships in Ghana, China, Japan, Germany, the UK, and Mexico.

Paula Lombardo translated an essay she wrote in Dr. Merrill’s Advanced Readings and Oral Expression class and was published in the *Women’s History Month Project* that was presented in honor of Renne Betz.

Learn Program offered by the Institute for North American Studies at the University of Alcalá de Henares (UAH). Participating students may choose to complete a Master’s degree in Education of Language, Literature and Culture in the Hispanic World or in Bilingual and Multicultural Education. The Master’s program at UAH is under a scholarship scheme, therefore while students are taking courses toward their Master’s they will also have an internship teaching English in the schools of the Community of Madrid. The Teach and Learn Program starts in September and ends in June. Rebecca Dellheim will be teaching English in Angers, France in a one-year position.

The following students participated in study abroad programs: Angers, France: Rebecca Dellheim, Dillon Oder; Salamanca, Spain: Kelly Martin, Danielle Hodges, Matt Laemmlti, Buffy Brown, Nathalie Williams, Andrea Black, Alison Eskridge, Carly Storms, Pam Glasnapp, Tessa Greene, Erica Luches, Cassidy Temm, Sarah Greene

Rachel Allen, Amanda McCullogh, and Bethany Peña worked on honors’ projects with Dr. Julie Stephens and Brittnie Hinds is working with Ms. Dolores Mercado in her project “Vivir y morir en Juarez.”

Faculty News

We would like to bid farewell to Dr. Josh Davis and thank him for his excellent year with us. We will miss him and wish him the best!

To fill his vacancy, the Department will be hiring a new faculty member for the German Program.

Dr. Della Goavec participated in the OPI ACTFL Workshop, Orlando, Florida, November 17-21, 2008. A four-day workshop on how to administer Oral Proficiency Interviews in French. She presented the following papers:

April 16-19, 2009, “Teaching Animated film in African Literature,” MLA (African Literature Association), Burlington, VT; February 7, 2009, “Congolese Woman’s Body: A Temple to preserve.” at Congolese Women’s Rally against Congolese Women Victims of Sexual Violence. Washington D.C; November 13-16, 2008, “La guerre dans la république démocratique du Congo à travers la chanson populaire” ASA (African Studies Association), Chicago; June 29-July 6, 2008, “Le traitement du dialogue dans L’appel des arènes” CIEF (Congrès international d’études francophones). Limoges, France. Also, in Summer 2008, Dr. Goavec interviewed Dr. Charles Simba Djungu, one of the important Congolese Diaspora writers living in Belgium, on the characterization of women in his writing; and she conducted a three-week research in France and Belgium, on Congolese Literature of the Diaspora. The findings will be used to revise part of her papers on this topic and the Contemporary French-Speaking World course.

Dr. Goavec also organized the visit of Dr. Pierre Lincourt, Director of the Ecole de Langue française et de Culture québécoise at the University of Québec at Chicoutimi, Québec, Canada. who visited the University of Central Missouri to discuss the Academic Cooperation between UCM and the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi. Also, Dr. Goavec received funding from the Professional Enhancement
Committee, to help bring in Joshua Asen, a film maker, for a screening/presentation of his movie *I love Hip Hop in Morocco*, at the Second Annual Film Festival organized by the Department of Modern Languages for High school students in March.

**Ms. Amber Reith Hutcherson** produced a Reader’s Theatre in the Richard Herman Black Box Theatre in September. Five students from various departments performed a selection of Nuyorican (New York Puerto Rican) poetry that had been previously presented at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York City.

This past semester, **Dr. Monty Laycox** has been working on a partnership with the College of Business to promote two programs of interest to both business and language students. The first is International Internships, where students spend at least a semester as an intern in a foreign country. This semester, the College of Business’s Internship office had four internships in Mexico and two in France they were unable to fill due to the lack of language skills of the business students. As part of our cooperative agreement, faculty from the Dept. of Modern Languages will visit business classes in the fall, and the Internship director will visit language classes, in an effort to encourage students to take full advantage of these exciting possibilities abroad. The second area of mutual interest between languages and business is in the newly-created International Business degree offered through the Dept. of Economics. A portion of the degree requirements is a 12-hour foreign language requirement, one of the most language-intensive requirements of any International Business program offered in either Missouri or Kansas. Promotional materials are being developed that will be sent to all foreign language public school teachers in Missouri, in which high school language students will be encouraged to pursue their degrees and language studies at UCM. In the area of scholarship, Dr. Laycox presented a paper at the 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan. His paper was entitled, “Similarities in the Frame Narratives of Alain Chartier’s Belle dame sans mercy and René d’Anjou’s *Livre du Cœur d’Amours esprits*”. Finally, Dr. Laycox will once again go to Louisville, Kentucky for a week this summer to assist in the grading of Advanced Placement French exams.

**More Faculty News**

**Ms. Dolores Mercado** presented “Historicidad en Malinche de Laura Esquivel” at the VIII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica, March 9-11, San José, Costa Rica. Also, Ms. Mercado will travel this summer with a group of 11 students who are participating in the Department Study Abroad Program to Sala-manca, Spain.

**Dr. Sandra D. Merrill** presented at the same conference, “De la prostituta de *Mientras llueve a la de La novia negra*.” She also attended the 2009 Center for International Business Education and Research Conference held in Kansas City, April 2-4.

**Dr. Julie Stephens de Jonge** presented “Moral Fantasies and Cosmic Order: Social Melodrama in Three Border Crossing Films: *Hombres armados, El norte* and *María llena ríe de gracia*” at the Genre, Ideology and Culture in Cinema Conference in Jaca, Spain, September 2008. We would like to thank Dr. Stephens for her outstanding job organizing the Second Annual Foreign Language Film Festival held on March 27th., 2009. The Modern Language Office Professional and the Spanish Faculty.

**II Foreign Language Film Festival**

On March 27th., we held our second annual Foreign Language Film Contest, in which area high school foreign language students create original short films.

We would like to thank the following teachers and schools for their participation: In French: Julie Begnaud, Lee’s Summit West High; Diane Bosilevac, Olathe South High; Debbie Wilson, Warrensburg High School. In German: Stefan Frank, Liberty High School; Julie Hume, Lee’s Summit West High School. In Spanish: Veronica Scott, Lee’s Summit West High School, Mary Smith, Gardner-Edgerton High School; Melissa Yankee, Oak Grove High School; Chad Blecke, Windsor High School; Karla Blecke, Sweet Springs High School; Tina Bowling, Lee’s Summit West High; Amy Delaney, Lee’s Summit West High; Robin Faroog, Lee’s Summit North High; Mike Flenthrope, Amish Middle School. The winning film was “Mi anti-droga” and was submitted by Melissa Yanke’s Spanish students from Oak Grove High School.
Alumni News

Niki Dosland. 2000. Nike reports that she taught Spanish at Shawnee Mission South in Overland Park, KS for 8 years and switched into school counseling this year. She says that she is no longer in the classroom which she misses but that she really likes what she’s been doing. She says that her new job it’s completely different than the classroom but enjoyable. She works with the freshman class and helps with the ELL enrollments (families that generally speak little English). She also helps make phone calls to Spanish-speaking parents when needed and she is also the soccer coach. Finally, she says: “Me gustaron mucho mis años en cmsu (si yo sé que se llama ucm pero todavía digo cmsu :))”

Emma Pyszka. I grew up in Italy in a nice town close to Venice where I was raised in a middle class family of six children. I met my husband Steve in December of 1986 when he was stationed in Aviano Air Force Base and we were married in October of 1987. During the month of June 1996, my husband received orders from the United State Air Force to report to Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. Since then, we are living in Knob Noster, Missouri with our two wonderful children, Emil age 19 and Ivan age 17, and my granddaughter Estella. I became a full-time student at UCM in the year 1999 and on May 5, 2001, I graduated from Central with a Bachelor of Science Cum Laude. With the completion of my B. S. in Spanish major and Social Studies minor, I was accepted for admission to the University Missouri-Columbia for their Spanish Master’s program during the fall, 2001 semester. I successfully earned my Master’s Degree (MS-Spanish Literature) in 2004 holding a position of teaching assistantship in Italian 1 and 2, Spanish 1 and 3 for the semesters of fall and spring and working as an adjunct Spanish instructor at State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Missouri. While working at Sacred Heart as a Spanish teacher, in April 2005, I presented a paper, “Identidad nacional e identidad individual en la literatura del exilio de Guinea Ecuatorial” as a graduate student to the Transitional Identities: Afro-Hispanic Literature of European exile Conference held at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Subsequent to my presentation, I intend to pursue the prospect of a possible Doctorate in the same field as non-traditional student. In fall 2006 I completed and earned a Teaching Certificate in Spanish with UCM and I am currently teaching Spanish courses 1, 2, Exploratory Italian I; Grades 7 and 8 Spanish and Dual Credit Elementary Spanish I and II (with UCM) at Crest Ridge High School. This school year has been a very productive teaching experience since I have been offered a position as an adjunct instructor at UCM for Spanish 1601 classes during fall and spring semesters and I am going to take a group of Crest Ridge students to an educational tour in Italy and Spain.

Travis White. After an incredible experience studying business and Spanish in Monterrey, Mexico and Antigua, Guatemala, I returned to Warrensburg with a newly found enthusiasm for foreign study and travel. I graduated from Central with a major in Business Management and Spanish in May, 2002, and joined the United States Peace Corps after completing an internship with MultiService Corporation in Overland Park, KS. The Peace Corps took me to the highlands of northern Peru where I worked as a business development consultant for two years. A few months travelling in the southern cone region of South America was an amazing end to such an unforgettable experience. I was fortunate to have what would result in a number of management opportunities with Aramark Corporation in Alaska, first as a store manager in Denali National Park in 2005. The seasonal nature of business allowed me the opportunity to spend a year as a business English teacher in Seoul, South Korea and a few months travelling throughout China and Southeast Asia. I also spent an austral summer working in logistics in McMurdo, Antarctica supporting National Science Foundation research. I now have the privilege of living and working in one of our finest National Parks, Glacier Bay, as General Manager of Glacier Bay Lodge and Tours. While I’m grateful for my experiences, I am hoping to settle in the region, begin earning my MBA this fall, and looking forward to becoming a father in August. I’m planning to further my career with Aramark in other lines of business and aspire to one day manage my own enterprise and teach part-time.

Kelly Kriesel. After graduating in 2002 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Spanish, I worked as a long-term substitute teacher. This was the experience that change my outlook on my career as an event coordinator. In the summer of 2003 I started working on my Master’s of Arts in Teaching. I also obtained a job at Ruskin Community High School in south Kansas City. I finished my MAT in 2005 and continued to teach Spanish at Ruskin. At Ruskin I started a Foreign Language Club and I take students every year to a foreign country. So far we have traveled to México, Spain, and France. I am also the cheerleading coach at Ruskin. Last year the squad went to the Show-Me Regional competitions and we won our division! I truly love what I do and I couldn’t have gotten here and be a good teacher without those that showed me how to be passionate about teaching! Thanks to all of my professors at UCM. (especially those in the Spanish department - you made me love the language more than I already did!)

On May 11, 2009 Maria Graves (2003) received her Dual Master, with honors, from Webster University: Master of Arts in Management and Leadership and Master of Arts in Human Resources Development.

Heather Hinds. After graduating from UCM (then CMSU) in 2004 I really didn’t use my Spanish too much until I moved to Mexico in February 2007. I worked there for six months at a children’s home in order to improve my spoken Spanish. I returned to Kansas City last August and started working at Samuel U. Rodgers Community Health Center as a bilingual unit clerk in the Women’s Health department. I have been giving Spanish classes to some of my co-workers once a week using my old textbook from Span 1603 [now 2601] and 1604 [now 2602]. In August [2008] I relocated to Fayetteville, AR in order to start the Master’s of Spanish Literature at the University of Arkansas. I will be teaching elementary Spanish in addition to taking my own graduate classes.

Amy Stoll. She graduated in July 2006 with a BA in Spanish and a minor in Graphic Arts. Afterwards she taught at a public secondary school in Mérida, Spain, through the Ministry of Education & Sciences of Spain’s near/post college graduate Language & Culture Assistant Grant Program. The adventurous and thrilling opportunity broadened social and linguistic connections. Upon return to the US, she substitute taught in Independence, MO and coordinated international students’ admission at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). Then she moved to her current Sacramento, CA area home to be closer to her new fiancé. They met while studying Spanish in Costa Rica, three years prior. Frontier Airlines recently hired Amy as a bilingual customer service & operations agent. She hopes to tutor Spanish learners and develop website design capabilities in spare time.
Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors!

French: Rebecca Dellheim  
Cale Johnson

Spanish: Fall/Winter 2008  
Stacy Brandt  
Kacey Norfleet  
Brandon Reynolds  
Laura Williams

Spring/Summer 2009  
Drew Allee—Meg Barker  
Quinn Herrelson  
Cale Johnson  
Maud Leblond  
Bethany Peña

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Conversation Group Leaders—Clubs—Awards Ceremony

As in previous years, this year we had international students and students at the advanced levels work as conversation group leaders to help our French and German students at all levels and the Spanish Intermediate I and II students improve their speaking skills. This year the conversation group leaders came from Ecuador, France, Mexico, Spain and the United States. They were: in French: Perrine Chapot, Maud LeBlond, and Danielle Zaluke; in German: Dessa Crum and Adam Edmond; in Spanish: Ángel Muñoz Gómez, Pablo Montero Gómez and Silvia Zapata.

Thanks to all of them!

Language Clubs

The French, German and Spanish Clubs had a very successful year. The three of them offer conversation groups once a week. The French Club had their annual Fondue Night, and had their last meeting at “Montserrat Vineyards” while the Spanish group had theirs at “Mexico Lindo.” (Below) Spanish Club. From Left to Right: Sandy Christ, Bethany Peña, Sandra Merrill, Dolores Mercado, Cassidy Temm (President), Maud Leblond, Alicia Krug, Amber Hutcherson. Front Row: Mark García, Josh Thompson. One of the highlights of the activities of the Spanish Club was the set up of the altar and the celebration of the “Dia de los muertos”

Also, the French and Spanish Clubs showed the movie “L’auberge espagnole” in an all-you-can-eat pizza party.

Awards Ceremony

The Modern Languages held its awards ceremony on April 30th. (See page 1 for all the awards). Our Alumni Guest Speaker was Maria Graves (2003), Agricultural Data Specialist with the USDA-Farm Service Agency and Women’s Special Emphasis Council.
Alumni News (cont.)

Melanie Lopez-Grewal. Since graduating in 2006, my life has been a whirlwind of events. My last semester I was fortunate to study in Valparaíso, Chile and travel to several countries in Latin America. It was an experience I will never forget. My second to last semester I met my husband, an exchange student from Mexico, and we have been happily married for over two years now. After graduation, I moved to Mexico to be with him. I was able to get a job as an English teacher and really enjoyed it. Living and working there for an extended period of time really helped me improve my Spanish and gave me so much more insight into Mexico and Latin America. In July 2007 we decided to start a new life and moved to Washington, DC. I have been working as a Case Manager for JAMS, an Alternative Dispute Resolution company. While I enjoy my work, I am very much looking forward to going back to school next year. My time in Latin America inspired me to pursue work in policy and development and I can’t wait to get started.

Christy (Galvez) Land. I attended UCM from Fall 2003 until May of 2007. I graduated with a B.A. in Spanish and Sociology. After graduation, I was married and am currently working to complete UCM’s Masters in Arts in Teaching Program (K-12) with an emphasis in Spanish. I am working in the Kansas City, MO school district at an elementary school as an ESL Paraprofessional. After this year, I hope to be a full-time Spanish teacher in the North Kansas City, MO school district or somewhere in the Kansas City, MO area.

Khadijah Shadeed. I graduated from UCM in May 2008 as a mathematics major and Spanish minor. In August 2008 I began my graduate studies, again at UCM, in pursuit of a M.S. in applied mathematics. During my senior year as an undergraduate, I developed an interest in actuarial science; thus, many of my classes are related to this area and will help prepare me for a career as an actuary or a career in another related area.

Janet Kipping. I graduated in May of 2008 with a double major in French and Spanish. In September of 2008 I moved to Kansas City and started looking for a job. With the economy the way it is I didn’t find anything permanent until March of 2009. Now I work for a company in customer service where I can use my French, as we deal with French Canadian clients. I plan on going back to school, I would really like to get my masters and move on to teaching. (If I could’ve done it differently I would’ve gotten a Spanish or French degree along with my teachers certification.)

Verónica Pérez. After graduating on May 10, 2008, I immediately started the MAT program at UCM. On July of 2008, I applied for a teaching position in Independence and they gave me the position. I am a teacher for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and they have been the best months of my life. I expect to finish the MAT in May of 2010 and hope to someday receive a doctorate in the near future.

My name is Courtland Mills and I graduated last year, May of 2008, and after that was accepted to do a Program in Spain for my Masters. The program is offered through the University of Alcalá and consists of getting a Masters in Language, Literature and Culture of the Spanish Speaking World as well as an internship to work at a Colegio in Madrid teaching the children English. It has been a great experience and to be able to use my Spanish that I worked so hard to learn has been a great reward! Also, for me, the experience of teaching in a Colegio has been the best part! The kids really have learned a lot and you get real world experience in how to teach a foreign language. With the program coming to an end in June, I plan to stay in Spain and get my TEFL certificate so that I will be able to teach English almost anywhere in the world. I will be coming back to the States at the end of July and hope to be able to find a position teaching Spanish in a school or finding something that I can use my Spanish everyday. After that, I plan to go and teach English in Asia for a year to pay off my school loans!

My name is Laura Williams and I graduated from UCM the winter of 2008. Since graduation, I have kept quite busy. Shorty after, I took a self-indulgent yet well-worth trip to Viña del Mar, Chile, where I had previously studied a year earlier for credit toward my Spanish major. Since my trip, I have been working as a full time substitute teacher in the Lees Summit School District and I will probably continue to do so through out my graduate studies. In a couple months, I will begin my Masters program back at UCM, specializing in TESL. With this degree, I plan on traveling to different Latin American countries, teaching English preferably to adults. I want to take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to me while I am young and single. Afterwards, I will probably locally teach English to Spanish-native speakers, using my knowledge of Spanish as often as possible.

Kacey Norfleet. This past fall I finished my last semester student teaching 8th and 9th grade Spanish at South Valley Junior High in Liberty, MO. In December 2008, I graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Education. After graduating I accepted a long-term substitute teaching position at Liberty Middle School teaching 6th and 7th grade Spanish. This past month I was accepted into the Teach and Learn Program at the University of Alcalá de Henares in Spain. In the fall I will be moving to Madrid to get my Master’s and teach English in the Community of Madrid for an academic year (Sept.-June).