The Department of Modern Languages is pleased to publish its second annual newsletter. In accordance with the university vision which aims to provide a world-class university education, our department continues to offer undergraduate programs that prepare students to become world citizens. Since last year, new programs have helped enhance the International dimension of education. Two new languages, Russian and Arabic, were introduced in the program. The one-semester Russian course was made possible through the Fulbright Foreign Language Assistant program. The Arabic course is being offered through a Consortium coordinated by the University of Montana. A new program, the World Languages Minor, is growing. It gives students the opportunity to learn three languages. The department continues to organize Summer Study Tours in Spain and France. In collaboration with the Department of Criminal Justice and the International Center, the department was able to co-sponsor five Brown Bag Lectures. Presentations on a variety of topics helped enhance student’s exposure to diversity. Faculty members continue to engage in scholarly work as evidenced by their publications.

Last year was also a sad one. The department lost one of its faculty members, Ms. Amy Hu. Ms. Hu has been an invaluable asset to the program. She taught Chinese for many years and made a tremendous impact on many students.

Given the growing interest among students who would like to continue taking Chinese, it is our hope that UCM will help the Department to pursue Ms. Hu’s dream of having the Chinese program grow.

Looking into next year, the department plans to hold a foreign language film festival for area high school students in the spring of 2008. Students will be invited to create their own original short films and video in a foreign language. Contact Julie Stephens at jstephens@ucmo.edu.

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A Word From Our Chair, Dr. Della Goavec

Student Awards

The Department of Modern Languages held its awards reception on April 6, 2007. The following is a list of the awards and their recipients:

**Achievement Awards**

This awards are granted in recognition of students’ potential or outstanding performance.

**Freshman**

Evelyn Harvey (Span)
Savannah Light (ML)
Shannon Piehl (Fren)

**Upperclass**

Stephen R. Christ (Span)
Rebeca L. Cumley (Span)

Angela R. Dudley (Span)
Erica M. Luchrs (Span)
Amanda L. McCullough (Span)
Steven Thompson (Span)

Anne Gardner Harris Award

This award is given to outstanding senior students in French and Spanish.
Awards - Awards - Awards

Karla Blecke (Span)
David Breon (Span)
Mallory Piehl (Fren)

Elizabeth Callaway Scholarship
Given through the UCM Foundation for a student majoring in Spanish. Made possible thanks to a gift from Dr. Betty Gomez Lance.
Stephen Christ
Corbia Davis
Amanda McCullough

Dalsy Deliens Scholarship

This scholarship is made possible by way of memorial gifts from the family and friends of Dalsy Deliens Brown for students majoring or minoring in Spanish.
Jessica Brownley, Stephen Christ, Rebecca Cumley, Janet Kipping, Amanda McCullough, Lorraine Moore.

Dr. Kenneth A. Gordon Scholarship
This scholarship is made possible thanks to a gift from Dr. Kenneth A. Gordon for a student in education.
Amanda McCullough

Dr. Ruth Doyle Memorial Scholarship
This new scholarship is made possible thanks to a gift from Michelle Schulze, a French alumna, for a student majoring in French.
Janet Kipping

Department Highlights

Brownbag Lectures
We co-sponsored with the Dept. of Criminal Justice and the International Center, “Issues in International Law” (Feb. 12th.) and “German Education and Culture” (March 28th.).
Both lectures were given by Dr. Stefan Lorenzmeier, a Fulbright Scholar at UCM during the Spring Semester 2007. He came from the University of Augsburg, Germany. He taught in the Criminal Justice Department, and gave a lecture in German once a week for German minors.

Mr. Haithem Gauwas, our Arabic Teaching Assistant, gave two presentations, co-sponsored with the International Center: “The Arabic World: Between Reality and Myth” (Jan. 24th.) and “The Culture of Saudi Arabia” (April 7th.).

Faculty News

Dr. Dot Robbins has been asked to contribute an article on the *Semiotics of Thinking and Speech* for a German encyclopedia called Enzyklopädisches Handbuch der Behindertenpädagogik. She just published an article titled “Redefining L. S. Vygotsky’s Non-Classical Psychology,” *Intercultural Pragmatics*, 4/1 (2007), pp. 85-97. Also, she just completed two issues as the Guest Editor of the *Journal of Russian and East European Psychology*, with translations from Russian into English. Vol. 45/1 (2007) on Andrey Puzyrei, and Vol. 45/2 (2007) on the Letters of L. S. Vygotsky 1926-1927. She has been selected to the Editorial Board for the Russian Vygotsky archives, which will be responsible for publishing parts of the collection in Russian, and later in English.
More Faculty News

Dolores Mercado, Sandra D. Merrill, Julie Stephens de Jonge and Michael Sawyer presented “The Reading-Writing Link: Research Findings among Different Levels of Spanish at UCM” at the 2007 Central States Conference held in Kansas City, MO on March 8-10. Dr. Julie Stephens de Jonge also presented “Embracing Ambiguity: Confronting Moral Dilemmas and Cultural Conflict Through Film and Literature.”


Dr. Monty Laycox will participate in the grading of Advanced Placement (AP) French exams this summer in Louisville, KY. The College Board, sponsors of such well-known exams as the SAT and GRE, offers AP exams to high school students as a way to earn college credit while still in high school. Dr. Laycox will join hundreds of other college and high school faculty in Kentucky for the week-long grading session.


Dr. Goavec also conducted research on a book project at the UPN (Université Pédagogique Nationale) and ISP/Gombe (Institut Supérieur Pédagogique de la Gombe) in Kinshasa, DRC. The research topic is: “L’inscription de la bible dans le roman de Sony Labou Tansi” [Writing the Bible in Sony Labou Tansi’s novel].

Dr. Sandra D. Merrill had her review for A contraluz: poética y reflexiones de la poesía mexicana reciente accepted for publication in Hispanic Journal. Also, her article « Hombres/Machos en Santitos y Demasiado amor was published in Visiones y revisiones en torno a la literatura hispánica, Series Encuentros de Viejos y Nuevos Mundos 2006, Enrique Herrera, ed., 39-49.

Promotions

Dr. Della Goavec was granted tenure and promoted to Full Professor.

Dr. Michael Sawyer was promoted to Associate Professor.

Students on the Move

Janet Kipping participated in the Concours national de français (National French Contest), a writing contest in French organized by the French Alliance.

Karla Blecke and Maud Leblond worked in “Historias interculturales femeninas,” a writing project for their Spanish Conversation II class under Ms. Dolores Mercado. They each have a story selected for the Women’s History Month Project, sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program, University of Central Missouri, Spring 2007.

Several of our students are participating in study abroad programs: Cassidy Temm and Lacey Barnett in France; Jamie Hibdon in Japan; Elizabeth Spillers and Ayako Ichinari in Mexico; Sarah Miller in the Netherlands; Chelsea Cox, Nathan Gibson, Casey Norfleet and Miles Butler in Spain; Meagan Barker in Wales.

Dottie Moore, a German minor, has received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach in Germany, 2007-2008.
Alumni News

Beth Tranter received a B.A. in French with minors in English and Anthropology. While at CMSU, she served as the university’s first student Regent, and received the Charno award in 1986. She pursued graduate study of French at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, receiving an M.S. in 1988, subsequently completing all required coursework toward the Ph.D. She taught French at the university level for nine years, including four years as a teacher-trainer at Indiana University. In the 1990s, Beth worked as a senior language specialist and a Developmental Editor for university-level French textbooks at Heinle & Heinle Publishers, a division of International Thomson Publishing headquartered in Boston, MA. Building on the sales experience she gained in the publishing industry, Beth later served as Vice-President of Sales and Marketing for Blue Ridge Interactive, Inc., and Internet start-up firm located in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. Beth currently serves as Administrative Director, Education and Outreach Director and Diversity Program Coordinator for Virginia Tech’s Center for Power Electronics Systems (CPES), one of the nation’s relatively few National Science Foundation Engineering Research Centers. Beth’s duties include development of education and leadership programs for graduate and undergraduate students as well as K-12 students in southwestern Virginia.

Christy (Kratz) Burd 2000. After graduating from CMSU, I taught in Liberty Public Schools as an elementary Spanish teacher. I taught grades K-3 Spanish. It was so great to see the children embracing a second language so early in the public school system. After teaching for 3 years, my husband and I started a family. After 3 years at home with our two boys I am returning to education. I will be teaching high school Spanish for Odessa R-7 School District in the fall. In the future, I hope to continue my education and eventually get to travel abroad with my family and students.

Jason Heany. I graduated from CMSU with a Bachelor of Science in Spanish in 2000. After graduation I taught high school Spanish and coached baseball at Windsor High School for two years. I then went to Law School at Southern Illinois University and graduated from there in May 2006 with a Juris Doctor degree. I now practice law here in Warrensburg, Missouri at the law firm of Meisner & Heany.

Zack Beus. Graduated in 2002. Attended the University of Pittsburgh 2003-05, received MA Public and International Affairs with an emphasis in Security Intelligence and Latin America. Worked in Juarez, Mexico for a NGO called Plan Estratégico de Juarez during the summer of 04. It is a privately financed NGO that deals with the political, social and economic well-being of Juarez and surrounding towns. In 2005 I was hired by the US government and currently work in Washington DC, dealing with Latin America issues.

Maria Graves. I graduated from CMSU in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and two majors: CIS and Spanish. After doing a six month internship, I was offered a permanent position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO) as an application developer. KCCO has many functions two of which are the import and export of commodities all over the world. Sometimes a division will receive a letter or memo written in Spanish and I’ve been asked to translate it in order for us to provide the appropriate service to the foreign company contacting us. Also, I’ve been asked to be an interpreter at one of the largest conferences held in Kansas City, the International Food Aid Conference. You can view the website at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ifac_registration.pdf. Next year, I will be translating the website in Spanish in order to provide the same information to the Spanish speaking public.

Angela Schemmer. As a graduate from CMSU in May, 2003, I accepted a position as a flight attendant for Comair, the Delta Connection, based out of Cincinnati, OH. I was able to utilize my French degree as well as my five Spanish courses when communicating with passengers. After living in Florence, KY for two years, I moved to Boston, MA and transferred bases to New York’s John F. Kennedy airport. Currently, I live in Queens, NY and am working at the corporate office for Steve & Barry’s University Sportswear located in Long Island. I am now finally using my degree in fashion merchandising, for I am the merchandising assistant at the corporation.
Alumni News (cont.)

Jamie Fischer. After graduating and attending a brief study abroad in Valencia Spain in May 2005, I moved to Overland Park, Kansas. I found an exciting position at an advertising agency working on pharmaceutical Web sites like AmbienCR.com. After a wonderful year there, I met a great guy, Mike, while we were both home (near Lake Ozark MO) for Thanksgiving 2006. He was living near Hays KS surveying on a natural gas pipeline - 4 hours west of Kansas City. In late January, I quit my job in Overland Park, and we packed up my apartment and moved me out to Western Kansas, where I am enjoying life with Mike and working in the office of a company that manufactures medical equipment. We are currently soaking up life in a new place and dreaming of moving back to central Missouri someday soon!

Alex Jenne. Graduated in 2005. At the end of this month, it will have been one year that I have worked for the police department that I am at in St. Louis. As far as the Border Patrol, I have not heard back from them in a while. I also applied with the U.S. Marshals about two or three months ago. In the meantime, I am really enjoying what I am doing. I am currently looking to apply with other police departments in St. Louis, Texas, Florida, and possibly Kansas City. As I mentioned, I love my job, but I feel that there are other departments that would better serve my interests and needs. I have conquered the first obstacle as far as the law enforcement profession goes by getting started with a police department. However, the department that I currently work for does not have a lot of room for growth. I would really like to get on with a department that has specialized units such as S.W.A.T., drug units, etc. Furthermore, I would like to work at a place that enables me to utilize my Spanish on a daily basis. One day, I hope to go to work for a federal law enforcement agency, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement or the U.S. Marshals. On a different note, I am not married and do not have any children to speak about.

Megan Scott (Gerhart). Hello everyone! Since I graduated in May 2006, I have had a very busy year. I got married in May, and we backpacked in Europe for our honeymoon. We were gone for a month and visited seven countries. David, my husband, and I bought our first house in Lee's Summit. I also started teaching Spanish at Blue Springs High School. I currently teach Spanish II and III, and I love it! Finally, this summer I am going to teach summer school, and we are going to visit Ecuador. I am really excited to see South America and to practice my Spanish!

My name is Stacie R. Price and I graduated from UCM in May 2006 and I my undergraduate degree in Management and Marketing with a Minor is Spanish. I am now in grad school majoring in Criminal Justice and I graduate from grad school in May 2008. My plans for the future, after I get married and move to New York, is obtain a job working with the FBI either as a criminal profiler or CSI (Crime Scene Investigator) and also I will obtain another Master’s degree in Forensic Science so that I can be able to work in a lab doing evidence. One of the things that’ll help me in my career is my ability to speak another language, which I believe will get you far in job market and more money and I am glad that I minored is Spanish, because it has helped me a lot.

Benjamin Borja. Life after graduation has been very interesting. I am currently working at Best Buy in Lee’s Summit, MO for the current moment until I obtain a job. Also, I am currently interviewing with Texas Department of Public Safety as a Highway Patrolman. I will be going down to Texas in a month or so for my final interview. I am pretty confident that I will get the job because my aunt and uncle are both patrolman in Texas. The academy will be in Austin, Texas and will last 6 months. However, I am going to be participating in their internship program in Dallas until the academy starts. In July, I will be going back to Guadalajara, Mexico for my friend Nicks wedding. He is one of my friends that I met when I studied abroad there and I am also going to visit my host mom. That is all that has been going on in my life since I graduated. I am very anxious to start working in the field of law enforcement. Graduated in 2006

Melissa Lackey. I graduated from UCM in December 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Spanish education along with a B.S.E. in Art education and a B.F.A in Painting. During my student teaching, I was able to put my Spanish to use not only in the Spanish class but also in Art. There were several young ESL students in my kindergarten art class whose English was very limited. Using Spanish, I bonded with these young girls in a way that only their ESL teacher could, as there were no other Spanish speakers in the building. That experience influenced my decision to go on to study my Master's in Teaching English as a Second Language which I am currently pursuing. As for the future, I am considering looking for Art or English teaching positions in a Spanish speaking country. It is likely I will end up in Mexico, an amazing country in which I have traveled extensively during two separate month-long trips and in which I have made friendships that will last a lifetime. From sitting down and speaking with Mayan descendents in San Cristóbal de las Casas in Chiapas, Mexico to making a difference in my own backyard, because of Spanish, there are many experiences of which I have been fortunate to be a part and still many more opportunities that await me.