The Modern Languages Department has had another great year! In March, we held our first annual Foreign Language Film Contest, in which area high school foreign language students created original short films. It was a great success! Congratulations to Liberty High School for their Best Overall Film award for “Le Bandit des Batonnets.”

The department continues to grow. In the last year, demand for foreign language classes increased once again, and as a result we are happy to welcome our newest full-time instructor of Spanish, Professor Amber Hutcherson. German has grown as well, and so we also welcome a new adjunct instructor, Professor Wendy Stallins. Lastly, in the fall we’ll be adding another language to our regular offerings: Kiswahili, taught by Dr. Della Goavec. If you haven’t been keeping track, that brings us up to seven languages: Akan, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Spanish and Swahili.

And last but not least: congratulations to Dr. Dorothy Robbins on retiring! Dot served the university for twenty years, and in that time she impacted the lives of countless students. We will all miss her and wish her the best in the coming years.

Student Awards
The Department of Modern Languages held its awards reception on April 24, 2008. Congratulations to all the recipients!

Achievement Awards: This year we recognized the following students for their potential or outstanding performance:

Rebecca Cumley
Shawna Edwards
Juan Frausto
Cale Johnson
Erica Luehrs
Carrielee Long
Amanda McCullough
Carly Storms
Kelly Wennell
Elizabeth Wylie

Scholarships

Elizabeth Callaway Award
Given through the UCM Foundation for a student majoring in Spanish. Made possible thanks to a gift from Dr. Betty Gomez Lance.

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

Juan Frausto

Mr. Wallace Brown and Juan Frausto

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

Cale Johnson
Cassidy Temm
Awards—Awards—Awards

Study Abroad
This new scholarship is given to students, in French or Spanish, who will be participating in one of the study abroad trips organized by the Dept. of Modern Languages. This year’s recipients were:

- Carly Storms
- Cassidy Temm
- Natalie Williams

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

- Arabic: Mark Weiss
- Chinese: Dustin Walbom

French: Lasisi Ayowumi, Corbia Davis, Sarah Evans, Elizabeth lavender, Simi Orekoysa, Bethany Peña.

German: Andre Gal, Katarina Keller, Monica Miller, Shannon Piehl, Thomas Simcox, Neil Talbott

Spanish: Marie Aholt, Jaleel A. Azis, Michele Batliner, Rachel Brown, Kaitlyn Cassity, Rachel Dunwoody, Elizabeth Ellis, Kaitlin Hopke, Hannah Johnson, Demetrius Joyner-Wright, Brittany Kowalski, Caitlin Keith, Rachel Nedderman, Massimiliano Perrita, Diana Rice, Crystal Spencer, Rachel Suthoff, Talissa Taylor, Steven Tyler.

Outstanding Majors and Minors

French Major: Cassidy Temm
French Minor: Madeline Baker
German Minor: Brian Barton
Spanish Major: Kenneth Beck
Spanish Minor: Khadijah Shaded
Anne Gardner Harris Award

Stacy Brandt (r.) Angela Dudley (l.)

Students on the Move

On November 7, 2007, Lacey Barnett, Chelsea Cox, Courtland Mills, Stephen Lightle, Megan Roepe, and Cassidy Temm, participated in a panel organized by Dr. Goavec to talk about their experiences in their study abroad programs in Ecuador, France and Spain. Speaking of study abroad, several of our students participated in programs to improve their language and culture knowledge:

- Alcalá, Spain: Chelsea Cox and Tiffany King.
- Angers, France: Lacey Barnett, and Cassidy Temm.
- Avila, Spain: Scott Allen, Stacy Brandt, Kimberly Buschjost, Brianna Caldwell, Julie Dunbar, Megan Fennessey, Ethan Gibson, Pam Glassnapp, Sarah Greene, Morgan Heather, Megan Hudnell, Cale Johnson, Stephen Lightle, Brandon Reynolds, and Laura Williams.
- Breman, Germany: A. J. Gelbach and Alexander Pangilinan.
- Mexico City, Mexico: Ayako Ichinari and Ilijana Vargovic-Radic.
- Quito, Ecuador: Courtland Mills and Megan Roepe.
- Santiago de Chile, Chile: Stacy Brandt, Lisa Hansen, Kacey Norfleet, and Laura Williams.
- St. Petersburg, Russia: Marie Aholt, Jaleel A. Azis, Michele Batliner, Rachel Brown, Kaitlyn Cassity, Rachel Dunwoody, Elizabeth Ellis, Kaitlin Hopke, Hannah Johnson, Demetrius Joyner-Wright, Brittany Kowalski, Caitlin Keith, Rachel Nedderman, Massimiliano Perrita, Diana Rice, Crystal Spencer, Rachel Suthoff, Talissa Taylor, Steven Tyler.

Faculty News

On October 17-20, 2007, Dr. Della Goavec did a site visit of The Ecole de Langue française et de Culture québécoise at the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi, Quebec, Canada. The purpose of the visit was the evaluation of the Language program for a possible exchange program for French majors. Also, on April 23, 2008, she participated in the WMS Multicultural Event, sponsored by The WMS SST where she gave a power point presentation on The Democratic Republic of the Congo, with display of fashion, art and, music. She also presented “Apprendre le français au 21ème siecle: un choix nostalgique ou pragmatique.” at the FLAM conference in October 2007. In the summer, she is going to chair a panel on Aminata Sow Fall’s writing techniques and, present a paper titled “Le traitement du dialogue dans L’appel des arènes d’ Aminata Sow Fall,” at the CIEF (Congrès international d’études francophones) in Limoges, France.

Stephen Lightle had his article “El cine de instituto. John Hughes.” published in Fancine, a Spanish magazine. The following students are working on their honors’ projects with Dr. Julie Stephens: Angela Dudley, A Guide to the Spanish Language for Law Enforcement; Stephanie Kane, A short story in Spanish: “El día más solitario”; Meredith Muensks, Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle in Hispanic American Children. Dottie Moore (who was also a student on the BremenUniversity Exchange Program) completed this academic year in Mainz, Germany, as a Fulbright Teaching Fellow. She will be spending the next academic year working in Berlin.

Amber Hutcherson tended the Central States Conference on the Teaching Foreign Languages in Troy, Michigan on March 2008. She attended several sessions on the use of technology in the classroom as well as two very informative sessions given by the Spanish consulate’s Education Division. She hopes to be able to eventually use sections of the presenter’s curriculum in her classes.
More Faculty News

She is currently working on a dramatic adaptation of poetry which will be presented in Hispanic Heritage Month. It will take place in the UCM Black Box Theatre and admission is free!

During the Fall semester, Dr. Monty Laycox presented a paper at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Convention in Atlanta, GA, analyzing the function of the frame narratives in René d’Anjou’s *Livre du Cuer d’Amours espris*. Dr. Laycox’s interest in this fifteenth-century French allegory led to the publication of his book in January entitled *An Intertextual Study of the Livre du Cuer d’Amours espris*. Over the summer months, Dr. Laycox will participate in UCM’s Summer Faculty Fellows program, and for the third year in a row will be a Reader for the Educational Testing Service’s Advanced Placement French Exam in Louisville, KY.

Ms. Dolores Mercado in collaboration with Dr. José Mercado presented “La herencia española en Hispanoamérica: fragmentación étnico-social y desigualdad económica” at the NAAAS & Affiliates 2008 National Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 11-16, 2008. Also, her paper “La historicidad de la Malinche: narración de códices en Malinche de Laura Esquivel” was accepted for presentation at the Coloquio International LAILA-ALILLA. March 10-14, 2008, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, México.

She was unable to attend the meeting due to political unrest in the area.


Dr. Dot Robbins, who is retiring at the end of July, has this to report: “This academic year we were fortunate to have had two exchange students from the University of Bremen (UCM’s German exchange program) serve as German tutors for our UCM students during the fall semester, Berit Iversen and Lene Voigt. They were also very active in the German Club. With funding from Dr. David Rice, they made a promotional video of the Bremen University campus in English, to help advertise the exchange program for our UCM students wanting to go to Bremen. During the fall semester, 2007, Kurtis Woods was our UCM exchange student to Bremen. And, we have a number of students interested in going to Bremen in the fall, and next spring. During the Spring Semester, 2008, Dessa Crum served as our German tutor. She spent one year as an exchange student in Germany, and ten months as an exchange student in Japan. We are proud to announce that Jonathan Cannon (who spent a semester on the Bremen University Exchange Program) has been accepted for the Middlebury College Summer Program, 2008. This is a real honor, and we are very proud of Jonathan. During this year the numbers of German students have grown, and we are most fortunate to have Dr. Joshua Davis as the new professor of German during the 2008-2009 academic year. Dr. Davis is a first generation college graduate, and a tremendous instructor. His knowledge of German is very close to a native speaker. When moving to UCM in August, Dr. Davis will have Dr. Monty Laycox as his faculty mentor, and Dessa Crum as his German student mentor. We are also happy to have had Mrs. Wendy Stalins as a German instructor at UCM during the Spring Semester 2008. She is a Master Teacher, and we hope to have her involved in our program for many years to come.”

Dot, thank you for your 20 years at UCM. We’ll miss you and your wonderful laughter!! We wish you the best.

Dr. Julie Stephens de Jonge organized the First Annual Foreign Language Film and Video Contest which was held in March, 2008. Students created short films (5-10 minutes) in French, German or Spanish and added English subtitles. We would like to thank the following teachers and schools for their participation: Teachers: Stefan Frank (Liberty High School), Julie Halsey (Lee’s Summit West High School), Julie Hume (Lee’s Summit West High School), Ann Miller (Pembroke Hill School), Mary Smith (Gardner/Dudgerton High School), and Melissa Yankee (Oak Grove). The winning film was entitled “Le Bandit de Batonnets” and was submitted by Julie Halsey’s French students from Lee’s Summit West. We also had two guest speakers: Bobby Thompson and Heidi Bacon who talked about their experiences as filmmakers. The UCM international students also provided educational presentations and workshops on their countries of origin. Next year the film contest will be March 27, 2009. Dr. Stephens also attended a conference at the University of Southern Illinois on international film and gave a presentation on three Spanish films dealing with the Spanish Civil War.

*A different language is a different vision of life.
—Federico Fellini

“The sum of human wisdom is not contained in any one language.”
—Ezra Pound
Alumni News

Michelle (Bailey) Schulze. Since graduating in 1996, I have been busy with my career and family. After teaching French in middle and high schools for several years, I started teaching English as a Second Language in Raymore-Peculiar three years ago. I teach K-6, and I love working with the younger students. It is incredibly rewarding to see students go from speaking no English to fluent, and I was recently nominated for Teacher of the Year. While I did not win, I was excited that people recognized our department's efforts. I live in Independence, Missouri, and I have been married to Phil Schulze for nine years. Our daughter, Grace, turns four in May. She is very outgoing and keeps me on my toes, but she is sometimes a little too much like me! I look forward to catching up with fellow graduates. I can be reached at mcschulze@earthlink.net.

Todd Findley. I live in Blue Springs with my wife of 17 years, Netta, and three children, Marisa, 14, Kyle, 11, and Victoria, 8. I graduated from CMSU (UCM) in 1998, BSE - Spanish. I also earned my Master's Degree (MSE - School Administration) from UCM in 2006. I have taught Spanish levels I, II, and III at Blue Springs South High School for 10 years. I also have coached the boys and girls soccer teams for those 10 years. I am now the assistant varsity coach for the boys in the fall and the head girls varsity coach in the spring. I was fortunate to student teach with Mayra Oerly in 1998 and take over her classroom the following school year. My education at UCM has helped me succeed in the classroom and feel confident about my teaching ability. This year, I teach Spanish III and I also am the building 504 Disabilities Coordinator.

Julie Willadsen. Since I graduated in 2000, I have been teaching Spanish in Sedalia, MO at Smith-Cotton High School. I teach levels 1 and 2; my sister, Andrea Eppenauer (also a UCM alum) teaches levels 1, 3, and AP. We are active with our French and German teachers in our combined foreign language club, SCUFL (Smith-Cotton United Foreign Language). My sister and I have nearly completed our Masters degrees in TESOL through Southeast MO State University. In addition to school and graduate work, I also coach our high school dance team. They perform at home varsity football and basketball games, as well as pep assemblies and other events. This upcoming school year will be my 10th year coaching. Although it is certainly time-consuming, it is one of my most rewarding activities. On a personal note, I will be married in the fall to a history teacher at Smith-Cotton. Greg sponsors the Student Council, which keeps him very busy, too! We enjoy our time at home with our black and white tuxedo cat, Rey (yes--Spanish for king!). Rey very much enjoys his treats, both those he is given and those he takes on his own!

Jeff Palmer. Since my graduation in 2003, I have been working as an independent consultant for the US Department of Justice and the US Department of State. I currently work as an adviser on issues like organized crime and corruption in an emerging democracy. This included areas like human trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering, and corruption as it relates to the privatization process following the fall of communism. The job requires close cooperation with other consultants from countries like Spain and the United Kingdom, as well as adviser from the United Nations Development Project. When completing this assignment in 2009, I plan to study for two to three months at the University of Salamanca to improve my Spanish skills, and then consider joining another international project in Latin America.

Lucas Cook. A lot can happen in a short amount of time and time sure does pass after graduating college. Since commencement in the spring of 04' I have had an interesting ride. I started out interpreting claims for Farmer Insurance at the Kansas City Help Point. Then in August of 05' I moved to Austin, TX. For two years I was the Food Stamp Outreach Coordinator at the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas. I worked with non-English speaking low-moderate income families and helped them get the assistance they needed. I performed interviews with Spanish media in Central Texas and worked in the community to reduce stigma. Almost three years in Austin and in addition to working a full-time I am playing music full-time. It's sometimes crazy running from day job to a show but very soon the debut Lucascookus album will release and we will be on tour. No more day job! I am forever grateful for the experiences I had at UCM. Having a degree in Spanish has provided me a job at a time when without a second language I would have been unemployed.

Josh Aldrich. As an undergraduate at University of Central Missouri, I pursued a B.A. with a double major in music and Spanish. While studying at UCM, I studied abroad three times: Conversa Instituto de Lenguas, Costa Rica; Tec de Monterrey, Guaymas MX; and La Universidad de Alcala, Spain. Since graduating in 2005, I have continued my Spanish studies. In the summer of 2007, I graduated with a M.A. in Spanish from the University of California Santa Barbara. In addition, this summer I plan to graduate from the University of Kansas with a M.A. in Latin American Studies. Also, during the spring 2008 semester, I had the pleasure of working for the Department of Modern Languages as an adjunct Spanish instructor.
Alumni News (cont.)

Thea Demma (thea_demma@yahoo.com). In May of 2005, I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Spanish. I obtained a job the following school year with the Sedalia school district as a 3rd grade teacher. It was quite the year! I learned so many new things about being a teacher, what types of real needs students have, and about many resources and ways to help students. It was a challenging and rewarding experience all at the same time. I developed quite a bond with most of my students and enjoyed, so much, watching them learn and grow. I had three students whose families had come from the Ukraine (all of which spoke English upon entering my class), and four students who came from Spanish speaking homes (two of which spoke NO English upon entering my class.) My basic Spanish skills came in quite handy in helping these children with basic directions as well as with some comforting and encouraging words, especially in their first days and weeks in their new and strange environment. It was truly a year of learning and growing for me. Then, this past summer, I married my long-time high school sweetheart. Because my husband is in the Navy, we were stationed up near the Chicago area mid-year, so I did not teach this year. We have been trying to settle in and explore our new area. There's quite a lot to do up here! I have since been applying and interviewing with some school districts in the area and remain hopeful that I may get some type of teaching position for the upcoming school year. (I've also been learning how much is involved with transferring teaching certification from one state to another!) And as far as long term plans...my husband and I hope to start a family in a few years, but until then, I'd like to stay involved in some capacity with the educational world, and possibly eventually work with ESL students. After graduating in December 2007, I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Spanish. Since graduation I have been working at Samuel U. Rodgers Community Health Center as an Outreach coordinator for the Hispanic community, mainly focusing my work on breast cancer awareness, screenings and education. I go out into the surrounding community to spread the word by organizing health fairs, and work with many organizations to find funding for those who are unable to afford adequate care. I have been in the process of writing a policy and procedure manual and grant writing. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to serve the population in which I work with. I feel that having the ability to speak Spanish has given me a tremendous advantage and has opened up a lot of doors of opportunity. I was offered the current position that I hold even before I graduated. I had worked for the organization part-time for 5 years as a Spanish Interpreter, which was also an awesome experience that helped me broaden and strengthen my Spanish. I plan to attend UMKC within the next few years to obtain my master's degree.

Dottie Moore. Since my graduation from UCM in May 2007, I have been working at a school in Germany as an English Teaching Assistant through a Fulbright program. I am currently living in Mainz, Germany, which is the capital of Rhineland-Palatinate and about 30 minutes from Frankfurt am Main by train. Working at a German school has been a wonderful experience. I have been exposed to a completely different educational system and have been able to learn about German culture and German people firsthand. Having the opportunity to teach German students about my own language and culture has been rewarding, as well. Of course, school children and adults alike have preconceived notions about what the United States is like and who the stereotypical American is. Although learning about these assumptions can be both amusing and frustrating, it has been helpful for me to be able to view my ideas and culture from the outside in order to better appreciate and understand them. Being confronted by such challenges has been a great way for me to reevaluate who I am and how my beliefs and ideas contrast and conform to my culture and to Germany's. As students and teachers get to know me and see that the United States is a complex country with a complex culture made up of all numbers of unique individuals-just like in Germany-stereotypes begin to fade away and real understanding begins to take place. I feel very fortunate to have had this opportunity to participate in such a direct cultural exchange that has made such an impact on my life.

Mallory Piel. Upon my graduation from UCM in May 2007, I spent six weeks teaching the first grade summer session at Academic Lafayette, a French immersion charter school in Kansas City, MO. I then accepted a full-time job as a French teacher and residential advisor at The Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee. The Webb School is the South's oldest continuously operating boarding school, and, in accordance to its founder's original goals, strives to build moral character, make ladies and gentlemen of its students, and prepare them for any challenge that they may encounter. The student population is very diverse, boasting students from 13 states and 6 countries. At Webb I serve as the 7th grade and French I teacher, assistant tennis coach, and an upper school girls' residential advisor. In addition to my duties as a teacher and residential faculty member, in March 2008 I had the opportunity to travel to Strasbourg, France for a week as a part of Webb's French exchange program.

David Breon. After graduating from UCM in December 2007, I have been working on my Masters at MU. Fortunately, I received a graduate assistantship; and since then I have been teaching one Spanish II class. Teaching was certainly difficult for me in the beginning however, I have greatly improved since last January. Furthermore, after being battle-tested, I am now able to empathize with my past Spanish teachers in their efforts to make their lessons as concise and interesting as possible. I enjoy the university atmosphere at Columbia, Missouri and I plan on completing my Masters in December 2009, thereafter to work on my Doctorate.

My name is Teresa Gomez and I graduated from UCM in December 2007 with a BS in Spanish. Since graduation I have been working at Samuel U. Rodgers Community Health Center as an Outreach coordinator for the Hispanic community, mainly focusing my work on breast cancer awareness, screenings and education. I go out into the surrounding community to spread the word by organizing health fairs, and work with many organizations to find funding for those who are unable to afford adequate care. I have been in the process of writing a policy and procedure manual and grant writing. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to serve the population in which I work with. I feel that having the ability to speak Spanish has given me a tremendous advantage and has opened up a lot of doors of opportunity. I was offered the current position that I hold even before I graduated. I had worked for the organization part-time for 5 years as a Spanish Interpreter, which was also an awesome experience that helped me broaden and strengthen my Spanish. I plan to attend UMKC within the next few years to obtain my master's degree.

Stephen Lightle. After graduating in December 2007, I started applying to substitute at local schools, but ended up getting a long-term position teaching Spanish at Windsor Jr/Sr High School. It has been a challenging yet rewarding experience, and one that has taught me a lot. The skills and work-ethic I gained at Central have been invaluable in this endeavor. In September I'm off to Madrid to study with the University of Alcala while assisting an English teacher in a local school. After Spain, I plan on starting graduate school somewhere in the states, where I will hopefully receive my doctorate.
Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors!

French:
- Lacey Barnett
- Chelsea Cox
- Janet Kipping
- Angela Montgomery

Spanish:
- Fall 2007
  - David Breon
  - Teresa Gómez
  - Stephen Lightle
- Spring 2008
  - Stacy Brandt
  - Mathew Leo
  - Bryanna Caldwell
  - John (Courtland) Mills
  - Stephen Christ
  - Verónica Pérez
  - Angela Dudley
  - Tiffany King
  - Ayako Ichinari
  - Janet Kipping
  - Brandi Killinger
- Fall 2008
  - Stacy Foree
  - Maud Leblond
  - Kacey Norfleet

Thank you for a job well done!

The Department of Modern Languages at UCM give students at all levels the opportunity to improve their speaking skills by practicing with international students and students at the advanced levels. This year the conversation group leaders came from France, Germany, México and the United States. Pictured below are (from left to right) Caroline Guillot, Maud Leblond, Angel Muñoz, Inmaculada Vergara, and Cassidy Temm. Alexandre Bouju, Erika Boute-lup, Janet Kipping, Gauthier Mazet, Dessa Rae Crum, Carlos Ávila, and Axel Velazquez were also part of these great group of leaders. Picture above is Angel Muñoz, from México, leading one of the conversation groups.