

Interlingua

Newsletter of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages

Number 7

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Letter from the Chair

If my information is correct, it has been five years since this department published a newsletter. While it would be virtually impossible to summarize here all that has happened in the department during this time, I would like to take this opportunity to provide a general update on our programs, curriculum, and mission.

In the final paragraph of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages' mission statement it is indicated that "the multifaceted programs of the department provide an opening to the world through language, literature, culture and civilization." Our continued dedication to the goal of broadening cultural understanding makes our curriculum one of true diversity and one that provides students with the tools necessary for success in a number of professional fields. This curricular variety, we believe, also fosters personal growth through encouraging acceptance of many perspectives and points of view. Toward this end we have recently instituted two new programs of study: the German Studies Minor and the Double Major in Languages. The German Studies Minor has been designed to afford students who do not have linguistic abilities in German access to information about German culture, civilization, and artistic expression. Special courses have been created that will be cross-listed with other departments and that will foster an interdisciplinary approach to the study of this area. The Double Major in Languages will allow students interested in two languages to develop expertise in two modern languages by taking 45 credits in

two languages, a total of 90 credits, instead of the excessive 110 credits formerly required of a student who wanted to major in two languages. It is hoped that this change will enable more students to investigate their interest in languages and culture.

The department maintains a strong relationship with the Linguistics Program and the East Asian Studies Program. The number of Linguistics majors has increased considerably during recent years, indicative of a very healthy program, and East Asian Studies attracts more and more students to its very engaging course offerings. The Department of Modern and Classical Languages at Western Washington University has an excellent reputation in the state for quality teacher preparation and we remain committed to excellence in language training for future teachers.

The 2000-01 academic year marks the second full year of operation for our new language laboratory in Haggard Hall. The lab offers both students and faculty a wide range of technological tools with which to enhance the learning of language and instructional innovation. The lab also houses an extensive film library as well as language software.

After a lapse of five years, we now plan to publish an edition of *Interlingua* every year. We invite your comments and would very much appreciate hearing about your achievements, travels, and professional accomplishments; a request for personal news items can be found on the last page of this newsletter. We also encourage you to keep in touch with us electronically by visiting the department's new website at

<http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~mcl.html> An electronic version of this newsletter will soon be posted there as well. Your interests

and ideas are important to us, so please let us hear from you.

Brent Carbajal, Chair

Faculty News and Activities

Department Faculty 2000-2001

Tenured and Tenure-track Faculty:

Darrel Amundsen – Professor of Classics
Robert Balas – Professor of French/Lab Director
Sandra Breitenbach – Asst. Professor of German/Ling.
Brent Carbajal – Associate Professor of Spanish
Petra Fiero – Associate Professor of German
Shaw Gynan – Professor of Spanish/Linguistics
Vicki Hamblin – Associate Professor of French
Joan Hoffman – Associate Professor of Spanish
Daniel Rangel Guerrero – Associate Prof. of Spanish
Walter Suess – Associate Professor of German
Massimiliano Tomasi – Assistant Prof. of Japanese
Kathleen Tomlonovic – Associate Prof. of Chinese
John Underwood – Professor of Spanish
Edward Vajda – Professor of Russian/Ling.
Rudolf Weiss – Professor of German/Linguistics
Janet Xing – Assistant Professor of Chinese/Ling.
Michiko Yusa – Professor of Japanese

Limited-term Faculty:

Jean Baker - French
Amy Carbajal - Spanish
Diane Coulombe – French
Lynn Day - Spanish
David Fiero – Spanish
Anne George - French
Katsuhiro Ito – Japanese
Diane Johnson - Classics
Ingrid Kassler – German
Cynthia McCurdy – Language Education
Yupei Peng – Chinese
Mary Anne Rangel – Spanish
Yang Ho-chin - Chinese

Chinese – Dr. Kathleen Tomlonovic coordinates Chinese and also directs the East Asian Studies Program. She was awarded a sabbatical last year, during which she completed chapters for the Chinese publication Nine Hundred Years of Scholarship on Su Shi (1037-1101). Prof. Janet Xing earned tenure this year. A linguist by specialty, she is currently writing and editing Pedagogical Grammar of Chinese while preparing to take students to Kunming for the summer language program. Yang Ho-chin continues to teach

language, culture and calligraphy classes. Yupei Peng, a dynamic graduate student from Taiwan Normal University, taught Chinese during this academic year.

Classical Studies – Drs. Darrel Amundsen and Diane Johnson continue to design and teach courses in Latin, Greek, and Classical Studies. The section serves a great many students through GUR offerings such as Greek Mythology. Prof. Amundsen remains very active in research, contributing two chapters to the forthcoming A History of Medical Ethics (Cambridge University Press). Prof. Johnson is also very active in scholarship and continues to work on her second Ph.D., this one in Sanskrit.

French – Prof. Robert Balas, in addition to serving as Lab Director, continues to teach in the French section. His work on Québécois theatre, innovative teaching techniques, and the use of multi-media has been well received. Prof. Diane Coulombe has a limited-term appointment in the section and teaches both grammar and a conversation course on Quebec. Dr. Anne George has a number of forthcoming articles in academic journals and has been very active in the creation of CD-ROMs. She teaches French phonetics as well as other courses. Dr. Vicki Hamblin is the Faculty Advisor for both the French Honor Society and French Foreign Study. As a medievalist, she continues to be active in her field, having recently obtained a publication contract for her manuscript “Le Mistère du siège d’Orléans, une édition critique.”

German – Drs. Walter Robinson and Henrich Brockhaus have both retired after many years of service to the department. Dr. Sandra Breitenbach and Dr. Petra Fiero have joined the section and teach a variety of different courses. Dr. Breitenbach

specializes in German linguistics and gives frequent conference presentations on a variety of topics, while Dr. Fiero works with Holocaust literature and has recently published an article on German-Turkish writer Alev Tekinay. Professors Walter Suess and Rudolf Weiss also teach in the section. Dr. Weiss is Director of Linguistics and has recently published some of his work on vocal mechanics; Dr. Suess is the Coordinator of German and is very involved with interdisciplinary projects as well as the "German for Business Purposes" course. Ingrid Kassler, the only limited-term faculty member in the section, contributes by inspiring beginning German students to cultivate a love of the language and culture.

Japanese – Dr. Michiko Yusa is the Coordinator of Japanese and teaches a variety of courses on language, culture, and literature. She is very active in her research and is awaiting publication of her books, Japanese Religions (Prentice Hall) and Zen Philosophy: An Intellectual Biography of Nishida Kitaro (Univ. of Hawaii Press). Dr. Massimiliano Tomasi earned tenure this year and will spend the first two quarters of next year in Japan working on the interdisciplinary research project entitled "Modernism in Kansai Japan." Mr. Katsuhiko Ito has contributed his considerable enthusiasm and teaching skills to the first and second-year Japanese sequences.

Russian – Prof. Edward Vajda teaches courses in Russian as well as East Asian Studies and Linguistics. He is extremely active in research and has recently published his book Yeniseian Peoples and Languages with Curzon Press in England.

Spanish – Dr. Shaw Gynan is the Spanish Coordinator and is very active in his research on bilingualism. He will spend Fall Quarter in Paraguay on a Fulbright. Prof. Joan Hoffman is the Foreign Study Advisor for Spanish and has traveled to Spain recently in that capacity. She has published articles on Spanish author Emilia Pardo Bazán as well as Julia Alvarez and others.

John Underwood is justifiably proud of the textbook that he produced during his sabbatical last year and he continues in his capacity as Teaching Endorsement Advisor. Prof. Daniel Rangel Guerrero teaches classes on Latin American poetry and culture, but he also enjoys teaching grammar classes at both the second- and third-year levels. As Chair of the Department, Brent Carbajal teaches fewer classes than in the past, but those classes constitute his favorite part of the day. He specializes in contemporary Latin American narrative. Carbajal recently published his book The Veracity of Disguise in Selected Works of José Donoso with Mellen Press.

Spanish also relies on the very excellent services of a fine limited-term faculty: Amy Carbajal, Lynn Day, David Fiero, and Mary Anne Rangel. Amy Carbajal teaches first- and second-year Spanish and collaborates with Mary Anne Rangel on the annual Cinco de mayo celebration; Dr. Fiero teaches a variety of classes and recently presented a paper at a conference in Puerto Rico; Dr. Day does yeoman's work at the first- and second-year level, and Mary Anne Rangel continues to inspire students with her very lively classes at the second-year level.

In **teacher education**, the department is pleased to count on the services of Mrs. Cynthia McCurdy. Mrs. McCurdy teaches part-time in the department, but her contribution is great.

Scholarships

We would like to announce and congratulate the recipients of the departmental scholarships awarded for 2001-02:

Tuition and Fee Waiver

Birgit Nick – German
Michelle Turner – French

Herbert L. Baird, Jr. Scholarship

Carlos Nye

Eunice D. Faber Scholarship

Lisa Phillips

Loomis/Hanley Scholarship

Lisa Hedzik

Linguistics Update

WWU's interdepartmental Linguistics Program has been operating as a pre-approved student designed major under the leadership of Dr. Weiss for some five years. As mentioned above, the program relies on the participation of many of the Modern and Classical Languages faculty members. The program enrolls more than 1,400 students in linguistics courses every year and is one of the fastest developing programs on campus. The program sponsors a yearly student colloquium, as well as a faculty speaker series. Guest speakers have included such notable linguists as Noam Chomsky, Merritt Ruhlen, Frederick Newmeyer and Peter Ladefoged.

This year the department has also welcomed Prof. Elizaveta Kótorova and Prof. Alexandra Kim, two visiting linguistics scholars from Russia.

Foreign Study News

The department continues extensive involvement with foreign study programs around the world. In cooperation with Western's Office of International Programs and Exchanges, the department has created a number of foreign study opportunities. Most recently, Drs. Xing and Tomlonovic have worked to establish a relationship with Yunnan University in Kunming, China. See the Chinese Section website at

<http://wwu/~chinese/StudyAbroad.html>
for more information.

To give some idea of the extent of foreign study options at Western, in recent years students of French have studied in Angers, Grenoble, Besançon, Caen, Rennes, Nantes, Nice, Aix, Quebec, Martinique, and Madagascar. German students have studied in Berlin, Eichstaett, Marburg, Giessen, Trier, Braunschweig, Dortmund, Tuebingen, Freiburg, Graz, Salzburg, Linz, and Vienna. Spanish students have taken advantage of programs in Ecuador; Morelia, Mexico; Valdivia, Chile; Cádiz, Granada, Madrid, Segovia, Oviedo, Alicante, Seville, and Salamanca, Spain. Students of Japanese have a variety of study options in Tokyo.

Alumni News

Due to the long lapse between newsletters, we realize that the information below is most likely very dated. We include it here because it was provided in response to our last newsletter in 1996. Future contributions will appear in a much more timely manner.

Cynthia Abad (Adams), 1990 – Works as Language Specialist for the U.S. Department of Justice. Cynthia is also a certified court interpreter (Spanish) for the State of Washington.

Jeanne Bartlemay, 1985 – Is Publications Specialist with Energy International, Inc.

Dale Battson, 1972 – Has traveled in Latin America and teaches high school in Oregon.

Sara Cram, 1979 – Works as Spokesperson for Ivar's Seafood Bars and Restaurants.

Janet Espinosa (Dalrymple), 1966 - Is Director of the Valdés Math Institute and Professor at Evergreen Valley College.

Kathryn T. Gustafson (Wilson), 1983 – Worked as French teacher in the Shoreline School District and then later held a

teaching position at the University of Arizona (100 and 200-level French).

Holly Havnaer, 1992 – Taught Business English to company executives in Madrid, Spain with Powell Languages.

Florence Helliesen, 1966 – Is a French teacher in the Lake Washington School District.

Michael Hill, 1996 – Earned his B.A. in Language and Literary Studies from Fairhaven and minored in Chinese. He is currently in the Ph.D. Program in comparative literature at Rutgers University and also is studying at the National Taiwan University on a Fulbright Fellowship.

Siri Hulbert, 1991 – Spent a year in Florence, Italy teaching ESL and studying Italian.

Heidi Johnson, 1995 – Is currently a Fulbright Junior Scholar in Taiwan conducting research on arts and cultural organizations for her doctorate at New York University. Ms. Johnson graduated with a major in East Asian Studies and a minor in Chinese.

Yvonne D. Jones (Hagen Reveal), 1992 – Is a free-lance medical interpreter and has traveled extensively in Norway.

R. Esther Karlstrom (Kessler), 1982 – Operated a foreign language and translation service in Bellingham and still occasionally teaches Spanish and Swedish.

Stan Lund, 1965 – Teaches ESL in the Edmonds School District. He also taught in Japan for three years.

Tim Morton, 1983 – Continues to use his Spanish as a Physician Associate in Family Practice at Group Health Medical Center.

Karen Noonan, 1984 – Earned her M.A. in Political Science and was working on her Ph.D. at the time of our last newsletter.

Douglas Padget, 1973 – Worked in Bogotá, Colombia for 19 months. He worked for Grays Harbor Paper Company and has been to Mexico a number of times on mission trips.

Ashley Robinson, 1991 – Works as Administrative Assistant at Olympic Health Management Systems and enjoys traveling.

Elizabeth Sherry (Troxel), 1973 – Works as Assistant Manager for Washington Mutual Bank. Met her husband, George, in Dr. Robinson's "German Literature in Translation" class!

Sean T. Taeschner, 1988 – Works for Seafirst Bank and is interested in gold panning.

Colleen Taylor (Long), 1988 – Teaches first grade in the Tenino School District.

Bobi Tone (Blackstead), 1969 – Taught in Puerto Rico for two years and then in Germany. Teaches elementary school for the Clark County School District.

Cathy Wissink, 1989 – Was a Ph.D. Candidate in Germanics at the University of Washington and working as an Instructor at Bellevue Community College at the time of the last newsletter.

A Student's Perspective

As a double major in Spanish and Linguistics I am one of many students at Western involved with the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. Over the past three years I have developed an appreciation of the benefits of language study, and hope to outline here several of these notable qualities.

In general, it seems that the study of foreign language directly results in an affirmation of the similarity between all humans. In order to connect with a speaker of another language, we must resolve to cross the line of demarcation that our first language imposes upon us. Consequently, we provide ourselves with the means to learn from and impact a variety of individuals, societies and cultures.

The commitment to such diversity is clearly visible in the layout of the language majors. To successfully complete a Spanish major, for example, we must first demonstrate a solid understanding of the language, and then move onto apply these skills in more advanced

classes. Upper-division courses in literature, culture, and composition not only amplify our comprehension of the language itself, but also expose us to the accomplishments of its speakers and encourage us to analyze and synthesize this information.

Due to the variety within its format, a foreign language major is applicable in a number of fields after graduation. Especially in our increasingly inter-connected and internationally focused world, a student of languages has the option to work in various occupations, enterprises, universities, and countries. It is therefore evident that language study affords us not only a greater awareness and appreciation of others, but a means of utilizing our skills in a practical and valuable fashion.

-Lisa Phillips (class of 2002)

This issue of *Interlingua* is supported in part through the financial assistance of the WWU Alumni Association. We encourage our alumni who are not currently members of the WWU Alumni Club to join. Contact the WWU Alumni Office at 800-676-6885 or 650-3353.

Request for Personal News Items

Please help us keep informed about your activities, news, and ideas. We hope that you will contribute to a future newsletter by filling out and returning this form to Marilyn Lyon, Department of Modern and Classical Languages, MS-9057, Western Washington University, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225, or by e-mailing us at: Marilyn.Lyon@wwu.edu.

NAME _____ **(FORMER NAME)** _____

ADDRESS _____

YEAR GRADUATED FROM WWU _____ **DEGREE IN** _____

CURRENT OCCUPATION _____

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS/ACTIVITIES/INTERESTS :

TRAVELS:

MILESTONES (MARRIAGE, BIRTHS, ETC.):