

Interlingua

Newsletter of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages

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Western Washington University

Spring 2002

Letter from the Chair

Part of the reason I so enjoy working in academics is that it entails adaptation to a very diverse and changing range of professional activities; the courses I teach vary from quarter to quarter, curricular and administrative issues are never quite the same from year to year, and I meet many different people on a daily basis. The fact that “every year is different” in this profession, however, has never been more true than in 2001-02.

To begin the school year shortly after the events of September 11th was not easy. Understandably, both faculty and students found it difficult to concentrate on academic issues that suddenly seemed to have become less important than they had previously been. With time, however, we found that the classroom was in many ways an ideal place in which to initiate the healing process and to discuss the changed world. Language being one of the principal ways in which culture is expressed and accessed, the aftermath of September 11th brought about a heightened sense of the importance of language learning. Cultural understanding is absolutely crucial at this point in time, and the study of languages will continue to be very much a part of that search for understanding.

This year has also been a very active one for us in Modern and Classical Languages in terms of faculty recruitment. We successfully recruited three new tenure-track faculty members, and we anticipate that new professors Cécile Hanania and Fallou Ngom in French, and Francisca

Paredes in Spanish will make a very positive contribution to their areas. The search process is long and arduous, but the excitement generated by these three individuals more than compensates for the hours of work put in by dedicated search committee members. More information about our new colleagues is provided in other sections of this newsletter.

Campus-wide debate has been held this year concerning a proposed restructuring of the academic colleges, the general education program, and how to manage an increasingly difficult budgetary situation. This department has taken an active role in all of these conversations, but has managed also to focus on realizing our own mission, continuing to strive for excellence, even as we participate in issues that more generally pertain to the university as a whole. We are very proud of our students and faculty, and whatever administrative and curricular configuration results from campus-wide deliberations, we will continue to offer programs that will provide students with practical language skills, access to literatures and cultures of the world, and an appreciation of differences.

It has indeed been a unique year. I hope that you'll enjoy the update on the department that the publication of this newsletter represents and that the coming year is one in which we continue to inquire, learn, and search for understanding.

-Brent Carbajal

Department Faculty 2001-2002

Tenured and Tenure-track Faculty:

Darrel Amundsen - Professor of Classics
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
Edouard Ousselin - Assistant Professor of French
Daniel Rangel Guerrero - Associate Prof. of Spanish
Walter Suess - Associate Professor of German
Massimiliano Tomasi - Associate Prof. of Japanese
Kathleen Tomlonovic - Associate Prof. of Chinese
John Underwood - Professor of Spanish, Lab Director
Edward Vajda - Professor of Russian/Ling.
Rudolf Weiss - Professor of German/Dir. Linguistics
Janet Xing - Associate Professor of Chinese/Ling.
Michiko Yusa - Professor of Japanese

Limited-term Faculty:

Abou Bai-Sheka - French
Amy Carbajal - Spanish
Lynn Day - Spanish
David Fiero - Spanish
Diane Johnson - Classics
Ingrid Kassler - German
Mayumi Kitajima - Japanese
Cynthia McCurdy - Language Education
Yoshiko Nakagawa - Japanese
Mary Anne Rangel - Spanish
Dwan Shipley - Linguistics
Ho-chin Yang - Chinese
Dominique Vaugeois - French

Faculty News and Activities

Chinese - In June, Western Washington University will host the ASPAC 2002 (the regional conference of the Association for Asian Studies), and Prof. Kathleen Tomlonovic is chairing the event. She also participated in events in China related to the 900th anniversary of the Song Dynasty scholar-official Su Shi (1036-1101), presenting her paper "Preliminary Findings Regarding the Burial Sites of Su Shi and the Su Family" in Sichuan. As part of her linguistics research program, Dr. Janet Xing published "Grammaticalization of Verbs in Mandarin Chinese" and "What do Chinese and Americans Like to Hear?" In Beijing this summer she will do research on semantic change, work funded by the College of Arts & Sciences and the Bureau for Faculty

Research at WWU. Prof. Ho-chin Yang continues to teach Chinese in the department and recently published a translation of the autobiography of Tashi Tsering, The Struggle for Modern Tibet.

Our study abroad program in Kunming, China is now in its second year. Prof. Ning Yu of English and the East Asian Studies Program will accompany students this year and serve as site director.

Classical Studies - Professors Darrel Amundsen and Diane Johnson continue to offer a strong program in Classics. Dr. Amundsen will be on professional leave next fall in order to pursue research interests, and Prof. Johnson is hard at work getting the new journal "The World's Muse" up and running (see Call for Submissions below).

French - This academic year has been marked by considerable change in the composition of the French faculty. Professor Robert Balas retired in August 2001, after many years of service to the Section and to the departmental lab. Professor Edouard Ousselin joined the tenure-track faculty in September. He brings to the French program a modernist's approach to French literature and culture, as well as considerable experience in Business French and outstanding skills in computer-aided instruction. During this academic year, the French program also benefited from the teaching skills of Visiting Assistant Professors Dominique Vaugeois and Abou Bai-Sheka, who have made this transitional year a good experience for all involved. Finally, we have hired two tenure-track faculty who will be joining the department in September 2002. Cécile Hanania holds a Ph.D. in Twentieth-Century French literature as well as a Ph.D. in French Literary Theory. Fallou Ngom holds a Ph.D. in French Linguistics. We anticipate that both of these individuals will make important contributions to the French/Francophone curriculum.

German - A faculty vacancy in the German Section was filled on a temporary basis this

year by Frau Ingrid Kassler. Frau Kassler, as demonstrated by enthusiastic student response to her classes, has made a great contribution to the first- and second-year programs. Dr. Petra Fiero continues her research on young German-Jewish writers and has developed an exciting new course on poetry and music, a course cross-listed with the Music Department. Dr. Walter Suess has also been very active in interdisciplinary work, authoring courses to be offered for the German Area Studies Minor. Dr. Rudi Weiss teaches both German and linguistics and serves as Director of the Linguistics Program. He recently presented some of the results of his research to the campus community as part of the Linguistics Colloquium Series.

An exciting new opportunity for students of German is a course to be taught next year on the teaching of German. The course will include weekend sessions directed by Herr Ekkehard Sprenger of the Goethe Institute.

Japanese - The Japanese Section welcomed Mayumi Kitajima and Yoshiko Nakagawa from Nagoya, Japan to fill temporary staffing vacancies this year. Students have responded positively to their classes and both teachers helped with Japan Week 2002. Dr. Massimiliano Tomasi returned from Japan in April (see his article below), and is currently hard at work on his research and teaching.

Prof. Michiko Yusa had her two books published in March: Zen and Philosophy: An Intellectual Biography of Nishida Kitaro (University of Hawaii) and Japanese Religious Traditions (Prentice Hall). In addition to her courses in Japanese, Dr. Yusa has also taught courses in East Asian Studies and the Liberal Studies Department this year.

Japan Week 2002 was a great success, the performance by a professional group of kyogen actors (Japanese medieval comic theatre), serving as the cultural centerpiece of the week's events.

Russian - Prof. Edward J. Vajda continues to offer the three-year Russian language

sequence on a staggered basis. In 2001-02, only second-year courses were offered; in 2002-03, the Russian Section will offer both first- and third-year courses. Prof. Vajda also offers courses taught in connection with the Linguistics and East Asian Studies programs. Dr. Vajda is active as a researcher of the world's aboriginal languages, particularly the non-Slavic languages of Siberia. In fall 2001 his monograph Yeniseian Peoples and Languages was published by Curzon Press. He is currently finishing what will become the first complete English-language grammar of Ket (an endangered language spoken in Central Siberia), to be published by Lincom Europa. This spring he was hired as a consultant for a project studying comparative cultures of Native American and Siberian peoples.

The department also hosted Dr. Alexandra Kim as a Visiting Fulbright Scholar. Prof. Kim is from Tomsk State Pedagogical University in Russia, and she collaborated on a number of projects with Prof. Vajda.

Spanish - The Spanish Section has again this year been very active in delivering a diverse curriculum to its students, as well as in providing a variety of cultural activities and opportunities for speaking practice. The annual "Cinco de mayo" celebration headed by Mary Anne Rangel, Daniel Rangel Guerrero and Lynn Day was a great success, the weekly meetings of the "Mesa española" led by Amy Carbajal and David Fiero have been well attended, and the frequent orientation sessions on study abroad options organized by Joan Hoffman and Amy Carbajal were well received. Another event that was attended by many students was the poetry reading by Joan Hoffman and Mary Anne Rangel entitled "The Many Facets of Federico García Lorca."

Prof. Underwood serves as Lab Director (see his report below), and has been instrumental in increasing the department's resources in Spanish, as well as other languages taught in the department. His conversation/film class taught in the fall was a great success. Dr. Daniel Rangel

Guerrero again inspired in students a love of poetry, teaching an advanced seminar on Latin American poetry last fall.

The Spanish Section also remains quite active in terms of research. For example, Prof. Gynan published a number of monographs and articles generated during his work in Paraguay (see his report below), Dr. Hoffman presented a paper at the University of Kentucky Foreign Language Conference and published articles and reviews in her field, Dr. Carbajal published two articles and delivered a paper at the annual conference at the University of Cincinnati, and Dr. David Fiero read some of his work on Cervantes at a prestigious conference at the University of California, Irvine.

Teacher Education - Mrs. Cynthia McCurdy again taught in the language endorsement sequence for the department during Fall Quarter.

Reports from Japan and Paraguay

Prof. Massimiliano Tomasi spent two academic quarters in Kyoto, Japan and files the following report:

I took educational leave at the beginning of academic year 2001-2002 and spent Fall and Winter Quarter doing research at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (known as *Nichibunken*) in Kyoto, Japan. I joined a team project under the leadership of Professor Suzuki Sadami, a renowned expert in the field of Japanese literature, entitled "Modernism in Kansai." Based at the International Research Center, the project's goal is the reassessment of Japanese artistic and cultural movements seen in the 1920s and 1930s in the Kyoto/Osaka area. Activities include individual presentations, field trips, and symposia. The team is comprised of scholars from a variety of disciplines and institutions, which reflect the highly interdisciplinary nature of the project.

Most of my time, however, was devoted to the completion of my manuscript on the role of Western rhetoric in the

modernization of Japanese literature. I was able to have unrestricted access to rare books and microfilm collections, and also greatly benefit from the suggestions of other experts in the field.

Working and living at the Center was an enriching experience professionally and academically. The Center, established in 1987 as an Inter-University Research Institute under the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture, is one of the prime facilities in the world for the pursuit of academic research on topics related to Japan. It is home to about 20 permanent faculty and hosts every year as many visiting scholars from different institutions in the world. It has a variety of outreach programs and events, and is often the site of major international conferences and symposia. Its facilities are outstanding, and so is the technological support provided both to Japanese and foreign scholars. It features an auditorium and numerous seminar and conference rooms.

The library is superb. The collections are focused on books relating to Japan written in foreign languages, and materials necessary for Japanese studies. It is said to house approximately 206,000 volumes in Japanese and 76,000 volumes in other languages.

Located in the northwestern part of Kyoto, the Center is a wonderful place to engage in research activities and to deepen one's own discovery of the cultural and artistic beauty of the area. I encourage anyone to visit it or check its web site at www.nichibun.ac.jp.

Prof. Shaw Gynan spent Fall Quarter in Paraguay and relates some of his experience below:

For faculty who teach modern languages other than English, travel is essential to maintain and advance speaking skills and to update knowledge of culture. There are also less tangible but no less compelling reasons for immersing oneself in the life of another country. The Fulbright Scholar Award has been an ideal way for me to fulfill this aspect of my career as a professor of Spanish and linguistics. The two six-month stays I have had in Paraguay

have enabled me to learn about an unusual situation in which an indigenous language is spoken by the majority, even in cities.

Witnessing such widespread bilingualism has helped me to develop a clearer perspective of our own situation in the US, where Spanish has grown to be the language of the largest minority in the country. Although the situation is reversed, since in Paraguay Spanish enjoys the upper hand, many of the issues raised, such as educational efficiency, national identity, and social justice are the same.

When students travel, they benefit directly, and for both those who have and those who have not traveled, the experiences I share with them in the form of articles, photographs, music, and recordings of interviews help them to become more conscious of the complexity of the world in which we live.

In the final analysis, the most fulfilling part of living and working abroad may be the human dimension, the opportunity to experience humanity in all of its diversity, the privilege of seeing beauty in contexts very different from our own, the wonderful friendships and the exchange of ideas in other languages. The benefits that come from the depth of understanding developed while in another culture are known to all students of language and cause us to encourage others to study as we have so that they may realize the same benefits in their own lives.

The Language Media Center

by John Underwood

The renaming of the Language Lab reflects the many ways in which the lab has evolved both in its facilities and its use. The Center has always been a place where students could go on a drop-in basis, individually or in small groups, to view foreign films from our growing collection (videotapes, DVDs, and laserdiscs), often as part of an assignment for one of our classes. Larger groups, including classes, can now take

advantage of our full-screen projection system with surround-sound acoustics.

The 28 iMac computers in Haggard Hall 114 and the 25 Macintosh G3 machines serve very different purposes. The iMacs are used by classes to run grammar-based programs on disks furnished along with the texts. The iMacs also have built-in grammar programs developed for a variety of McGraw-Hill textbooks, and which are proving to be useful for first- and second-year classes for practice and review.

The G3s can perform all of the functions of the iMacs, with the addition that with the installation of the latest Macintosh operating system, OSX, students are able to type in Chinese or Japanese characters. In time, all of the G3s will be connected to an HP printer capable of printing these characters, as well as those of any other alphabet, such as Cyrillic (for Russian). At present, five machines have printing capability.

Other resources available to students include:

- Live foreign-language television programs from the International Channel;
- Access to the Internet for research and class projects;
- Interactive software for practicing Chinese pronunciation;
- Encarta, an online encyclopedia;
- Système-D, a French writing assistant;
- iMovie, for editing digital movies (on the Mac)

Our current project is to complete a LMC website to be linked to that of the department. The central feature of the site will be a complete online database of all video, audio and software in our collection. This information will be searchable by title, (including English title if given), director (or singer), language, country of origin, date, and the format of the media (VHS, DVD, laserdisc, CD-audio, CD-ROM). New acquisitions will be inserted as they are catalogued. One added benefit of having this information online is that it will enable

the lab assistant to indicate when and to whom an item has been checked out (faculty only), useful for subsequent tracking, should another faculty member need to use these materials.

Scholarships and Awards

We would like to announce and congratulate the recipients of the departmental scholarships awarded for 2002-03:

Tuition and Fee Waiver

Jaime Buchanan – French
Melanie Schweider – German

Loomis/Hanley Scholarship:

Jennifer Condit – German/Linguistics

Herbert L. Baird, Jr. Scholarship:

Megan Murphy – Spanish

Eunice D. Faber Scholarship:

Alison Howard – Spanish/Linguistics

Outstanding Graduate

Lisa Phillips - Spanish

Alumni News

Karlyn Angel (Benjamin), 1991

Karlyn is a high school Spanish instructor, and earned her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction in 1998.

Emily Brynn, 1999

She is an elementary ESL teacher in Kent School District.

Kathy Cosley, 1986

Kathy is qualified by the International Federation of Mountain Guides Association and uses French and Spanish extensively

while leading treks in South America and Europe.

Cynthia Cronkhite, 1982

Currently teaching foreign languages in England for the US Department of Defense.

Gloria Delgado (Kelly)

She works as an ESOL compliance specialist for the school district in Celebration, a city developed by Disney near Orlando, Florida.

David Dickinson, 1990

David has a BA in Spanish, and then earned his doctorate degree in economics from University of Arizona. He is an economics professor at Utah State University.

Maja Haefer

While pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Washington, Ms. Haefer is an assistant in the Children's Library at the Seattle Asian Art Museum.

Chris Ann Jensen Hall, 1972

Graduated with a major in German and Secondary Education. Currently, she is a third grade teacher at Kitsap Lake Elementary School in Bremerton.

Michael Hill , 1996

Mr. Hill graduated with a minor in Chinese and has completed an M.A. in comparative literature from Rutgers University.

Margaret (Ditzler) Jack, 1982

Ms. Jack's son currently attends Western, and she has been very active in training and research in cross-cultural issues for the Agros Foundation in Seattle. She has also used her degree to work with the State of Washington Migrant Education Program, the Sea Mar Community Health Clinics, and the Public Health Department in Seattle. She also has an Associate's degree from Lake Washington Technical College in hotel management.

Heidi Johnson, 1995

Dr. Johnson completed her Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research in New

York. She will serve as Program Assistant to the Asia Project at Columbia University.

Daniel Kaplan, 1984

Daniel is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, which has greatly advanced his career in the airline industry.

Christine McQuesten Knorr, 1988

She graduated with a teaching certificate and French degree, and is currently an Adult Basic Education and French instructor in Seattle.

Stan Lund, 1965

Stan is a special-needs teacher at Astoria High School. He has traveled in Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Bali Indonesia, India, Nepal, Trans-Siberian Express-Helsinki to Nahodka Russia, Norway, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Trans-Canada Railroad, Mexico, and Hong Kong.

George Murray, 1996

He is an office manager for NorthStar Development Properties in Puerto Penasco, Sonora Mexico. George earned a double major in French and Linguistics, then a Master's in French.

Clifford Olds, 1993

Cliff has a Spanish BA and a M.Ed., and teaches Spanish and German in Walla Walla, Washington.

Douglas Padgett, 1973

Earned his Spanish degree with a minor in sociology and anthropology. He works for Washington State DSHS as a bilingual medical assistance specialist, and also speaks Spanish at home with his wife who is a native of Columbia.

Addie Pobst, 1977

With her Spanish degree, she is very successful as an organic produce importer

and broker of apples and pears from Chile, Argentina, Mexico and Honduras.

Herbert G. Porter, 1977

After starting the Spanish program at Ferndale High School in 1980, Mr. Porter is now the senior Spanish teacher there. Advanced placement results show that 86% of his students taking the national exam have scored a 3 or better. He is commander of the 262 Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS), Washington Air National Guard in Bellingham.

Danielle Prince, 1998

Lives in Munich, Germany and is an intern with Earthlink Munich and Amnesty International in Bonn.

Katie Self (Baker), 1999

She's a Spanish paraprofessional in Denver Public School District, and married Ryan Self who has a degree in East Asian Studies.

Barbara Shephard (Howell), 1976

A French graduate who is a commercial real estate broker and wine distributor. She recently traveled to France and was pleasantly surprised that her retention was still very good.

Steffani Stephens (Womac), 1994

With degrees in international business and German, Steffani is currently working at MSN as an international strategy and planning manager.

Michelle Wiley, 2000

Teaches Spanish and ESL at Everett High School.

Bridget E. Yaden, 1991

Currently a lecturer of Spanish and coordinator of the Language Resource Center at Pacific Lutheran University. She will defend her thesis in Romance Linguistics at University of Washington in June 2002.

A Student's Perspective

After three years of studying in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, I will graduate in June with a degree in German and one in Linguistics. Of so much greater worth to me, however, will be the fact that I will graduate with the ability to listen intently, read and think critically, and communicate and clearly articulate creative thought. In our department, I have had the opportunity to take classes from many different teachers in different languages, with different focuses. Each professor has had one thing in common with the previous; an enthusiasm for sharing his or her knowledge, which rubs off on the students and fosters in them the desire to listen intently and engage themselves as learners.

In our last issue, Prof. Carbajal mentioned the addition of a German studies minor. I have been privileged to take some of those courses for my major and have benefited from the opportunity to learn alongside students from other disciplines. These classes have echoed the emphasis of other language classes, namely learning to read and think critically rather than simply accepting as truth what is presented in literature and lecture.

Finally, the programs in this department have been thoroughly supportive of teaching students to communicate and clearly articulate creative thought. Most upper-division courses and some introductory-level ones provide a forum within, as well as outside, the classroom for discussion. These opportunities range from more to less formal and provide growth in communicative competence. Students often take part in the teaching process by researching certain topics pertaining to the overall course plan and presenting their findings to the class. This department and its faculty not only teach students these invaluable skills, but also exemplify what they endeavor to teach, thereby inspiring the students to follow along. A student majoring in this department not only learns the language skills directly associated with his or her program, but also is taught how to listen, think, and articulate. It is the department's strength in this area that I find most invaluable.

-Jordan Crossfield
Class of 2002

The World's Muse

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages is requesting submissions of poetry, short fiction and drama, and essays for inclusion in the premier edition of *The World's Muse*. Our new quarterly journal of creative writing in world languages (all languages, ancient and modern, other than English) will feature the work of writers at all stages of language study, from first-year to native-speaker level. Deadline for the Autumn edition is July 15, 2002. Submissions may be sent to Dr. Diane Johnson, care of the department. Electronic submissions may be sent to Diane.Johnson@wwu.edu.

And Finally . . .

A Swiss man, looking for directions, pulls up at a bus stop where two Americans are waiting. "Entschuldigung, koennen Sie Deutsch sprechen?" he asks. The two Americans just stare at him.

"Excusez-moi, parlez vous français?" he tries. The two continue to stare.

"Parlate italiano? No response.

"Hablan ustedes español?" Still nothing.

The Swiss guy drives off, extremely frustrated. The first American turns to the second and says, "You know, maybe we should learn a foreign language."

"Why?" says the other. "That guy knew four languages and it didn't do him any good."

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 Lisa Lahmann, Dept. of Modern and Classical Languages, MS-9057, Western Washington University, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225, or by e-mailing us at Lisa.Lahmann@wwu.edu.

NAME _____ (FORMER NAME) _____

ADDRESS _____

YEAR GRADUATED FROM WWU _____ DEGREE IN _____

CURRENT OCCUPATION _____

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS/ACTIVITIES/INTERESTS :

TRAVELS:

MILESTONES (MARRIAGE, BIRTHS, ETC.):