



Department of World Languages and Cultures- Fall 2012 Newsletter

Dear Alumni and friends of WLAC,

Greetings from the Department of World Languages and Cultures! Our department, as the campus around us, keeps growing and transforming itself. Last Spring many of you came by to celebrate with us the 40th anniversary of Cavanaugh Hall. It was a pleasure to share with you our recent renovation of the WLAC home in CA 545 into a welcoming suite of offices. With the retirement of our founding faculty in the last few years and with the end of Gabrielle Bersier's third three-year term as Chair, the department is entering a new era with several new faces among our faculty ranks. Our most sincere gratitude for your generous donations that support our students and faculty. I would like to give you some updates about WLAC happenings, but, please, let us also hear from you. We love to know what you are doing and to see you from time to time.

If you would like to see our newest program offerings, or if you are interested in learning a new language, please visit our website at <http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/wlac/>. Let me also take this opportunity to invite you to our WLAC Holiday Party on Friday, December 7t, 4:00-6:00pm in the beautifully renovated CA 508. We look forward to seeing you and your family there.

Best wishes to you and your families!

Cordially,

Marta Antón
Associate Professor and Chair

IN RECOGNITION

We owe **Gabrielle Bersier** a great deal of gratitude for nine years of leadership of the second largest department in the School of Liberal Arts. During her time as chair, we have increased the number of languages of study and degrees our students may earn. Our students can earn minors and individualized majors in Arabic and Chinese Studies, double degrees in engineering and German, French and Spanish. The Masters program in Teaching Spanish has greatly expanded in the last decade, and we are getting ready to add a Graduate Certificate in Translation Studies. With the addition of new faculty with

expertise in linguistics, applied linguistics and translation in French, German and Spanish, the department enjoys a reputation for expertise in second language acquisition, translation and interpreting. During the last decade we have increased our ties with language and cultural centers that contribute to the internationalization of the campus. The Max-Kade Center for German American studies has now a campus location, the Spanish Resource Center has a new and improved location on the second floor of Cavanaugh with many services provided to students to facilitate learning about Spanish language and culture. On the first floor of Cavanaugh Hall, the Confucius Institute offers a wide variety of learning opportunities and connections with China. Under Gabrielle's leadership we have also become an engaged department in service learning, with large numbers of students volunteering in the community and learning languages, cultures and professional skills from our community partners. All of these accomplishments, and many others, happened with Gabrielle's support and commitment to our students and faculty. Thank you, Gabrielle

We welcome our *newest faculty* members. **Thorsten Carstensen** joined the program in German this fall, after completing his Ph.D. in German literature from New York University. Thorsten spent three months as a research fellow at the NYU Center in Berlin Spring of 2012. He is a specialist in the work of avant-garde Austrian novelist and play writer Peter Handke. **Marda Rose** joins the faculty in the Spanish program as an expert in pragmatics and second language acquisition. Marda is completing her doctoral dissertation on the acquisition of suggestions in Spanish as a second language at Indiana University on the Bloomington campus.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Study Abroad continues to be an important focus of activity. Fulfilling Indiana University's lead in the study of world languages and the cultures of people around the globe, WLAC contributes to the internationalization of our campus by taking students to many parts of the world.

- Claudia Grossmann (WLAC/German) took students of German on an intensive two-week program to **Heilbronn, Germany**. The study abroad program, which is offered in conjunction with the local university each summer, combined language immersion, cultural field trips, and service learning opportunities. Site visits included the Mercedes Museum in Stuttgart, the Audi Forum production facility near Heilbronn, the medieval town of Bad Wimpfen, and the Heidelberg Castle. Students also volunteered two afternoons at a local organization specializing in workforce development and assistance to immigrants.
- Amira Mashhour (WLAC/Arabic) arranged for one student to study Arabic media and culture at the School of International Training in **Amman, Jordan**.
- This summer Ana Vicente (WLAC/Spanish) spent six weeks in the historic city of **Salamanca, Spain**, with graduate and undergraduate students from IUPUI, IUB and IU West. The students lived with Spanish families and attended classes on Spanish Grammar, Culture and Conversation. They also took advantage of being

in Spain to travel and visit the most important cities of Spain such as Barcelona, Madrid, Sevilla and Granada.

- Didier Bertrand (WLAC/French) took students of French on an intensive three-week language program to **Strasbourg, France**. The study abroad program, which is offered in conjunction with the Institut International d'Études Françaises (IIES) on the campus of the Université de Strasbourg, combined language immersion and cultural field trips.
- José Vargas Vila (WLAC/Spanish) led a trip to **Cuba** last June with a group of IUPUI students to study Spanish and Caribbean culture. The students visited **La Habana** and toured several other cities and sites across the country. They were also able to visit and interview the famous Cuban writer María Elena Llana.

Your donations to scholarships for Study Abroad such as the Beaudry Summer Scholarship, Marius J. Fauré Family Scholarship, Nancy Newton Study Abroad Scholarship, and the IUPUI Max-Kade Scholarship have made it possible for these students to fulfill their dream of studying abroad. Thank you!

Last October 2nd WLAC held a **World Languages Career Day**. With ten community presenters and over one hundred students in attendance, the talks exposed students to real life stories about how they could apply their world language skills to careers in business, foreign service, education, non-profit organizations, translation, tourism and many others. Our community partners emphasized what we know already, that job candidates with skills in world languages will be best equipped to join the workforce of a global, interconnected world. The following comment by a student in attendance summarizes in a nutshell the effect the talks had on our students: "I really enjoyed my experience at the Career in World Languages presentation. I found the speakers that I heard to be very inspiring and they got me thinking of all the ways I could use Spanish that I had never considered. After listening to the speakers, I have decided without a doubt that I would like to pursue the opportunity to study abroad this summer in Salamanca, Spain, and that I want to make my pursuit of learning the Spanish language a never-ending, life-long endeavor."

The interest from our students to learn languages is also reflected in a record number of students who are graduating with Individualized Majors and with Minors in **Less Commonly Taught Languages** (Arabic, Chinese, Japanese) and in Classical Studies.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Professor Enrica Ardemagni has become a leading expert in teaching translation and interpreting. Her latest article, co-authored with Professor Gladys Matthews on judicial interpretation education in U.S. colleges and universities will soon appear in the journal *Translation and Interpreting Studies*.

Professor Bersier continues to be a leading expert on Goethe. Her latest article on the renowned German author appeared in *Goethe-Jahrbuch*.

Professor Brant conducted research on contemporary Argentine homoerotic literature during his sabbatical leave last Spring. His work has been presented at conferences and will be published in a forthcoming issue of the journal *Hispania*.

Professor Audrey Gertz was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Spanish. She is currently researching and developing writing instruction in Spanish in an online format.

Professor Amira Mashhour, lecturer in Arabic and Director of the program in Arabic, was a speaker in the Symposium "Sharia Beyond the Headlines", organized by the Department of Religious Studies with the Center for Interfaith Cooperation (CIC) and the Muslim Association of Indianapolis, June 14, 2012. She is also creating a new course on Women and Islam in collaboration with the program in Women Studies.

Professor Kate Miller has presented her work on second language sentence processing by learners of French at several conferences, the European Second Language Association conference in Poznan, Poland, the 5th Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition-North America conference the 31st Annual Second Language Research Forum.

Professor Rosa Tezanos-Pinto and Professor María Teresa Medeiros Lichem from the University of Vienna co-organized a symposium, Human Rights and Literature, as part of the 54th International Conference of Americanists that took place at the University of Vienna, Austria this past July. The symposium gathered scholars from Austria, Brazil, Italy, Spain, and the United States. During this event, Tezanos-Pinto presented a paper, "Los derechos humanos y el discurso de violencia y perplejidad en la nación imaginaria de Luisa Valenzuela." She also gave a presentation at the XV Forum for Iberian Studies, University of Oxford, England. Her recently edited a book, *El exilio y la palabra. La trashumancia de un escritor argentino-estadounidense* (Buenos Aires: Editorial Vinciguerra, 2012) was presented at the 2012 Buenos Aires Book Fair (Argentina). Dr. Tezanos Pinto has recently become the first director of the new program in **Latino Studies**.

Professor Ben Van Wyke celebrated International Translation Day on September 30th with a reading of his translation of short stories by Spanish writer Mercedes Cebrián. His work on translation and ethics has appeared in *The Routledge Handbook of Translation Studies* (2012) and in *Handbook of Translation Studies* (John Benjamins, 2010).

Professor Jing Wang is an expert on the use of learning technologies for the acquisition of the Chinese language. Her latest publications on the effect of using electronic dictionaries on reading ability in Chinese and on computer assisted language learning have recently appeared in the *Journal of the Chinese Language Teachers Association*, *Reading in a Foreign Language*, and *Computer Assisted Language Learning*. She has also enhanced our international curriculum by teaching courses in Contemporary Chinese Cinema and on Chinese Martial Arts. Her numerous teaching achievements were recognized last year with the prestigious *Trustees Teaching Award*.

Professor Iker Zulaica Hernández' studies on the semantics of demonstratives as discourse particles continues to improve our knowledge of language and discourse. His latest work appears in the *International Review of Pragmatics* and in the book *Current Formal Aspects of Spanish Syntax and Semantics* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing)

Graduate students in the M.A.T. program in Spanish have co-authored publications with **Professor Marta Antón. Miranda Erk's** co-authored article on sociolinguistic uses of language and learning Spanish as a second language by immigrants in Spain was published in the online journal *Segundas lenguas e inmigración*. **Jennifer Smiley** co-authored a chapter based on her thesis work in the book *Teachers' roles in second language learning: Classroom applications of sociocultural theory* (Information Age Publishing).