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INDIANA UNIVERSITY - PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

Department of World Languages and Cultures

Winter 2016 Newsletter

Message from the chair

Greetings! The faculty and students of the [Department of World Languages and Cultures](#) (WLAC) have many stories to share with you.

This year we launched a [Graduate Certificate in Translation](#), expanded our online course offerings, and added a study abroad option to Japan for students in healthcare fields!

In an era of increased awareness of the importance of global perspectives, understood as preparing students for life in a pluralistic world by learning to think and act with those who are different, WLAC has much to offer to every student. Our department is committed to fostering global perspectives through the facilitation of curricular and extracurricular experiences locally and globally through new programs, pedagogical innovation, cultural events, civic engagement, international research, and faculty and student collaboration.

We love to hear from you, so please send us an [update](#). As always, we look forward to seeing you and your family at any of our many events.

Best wishes to you and yours! [\[Read more\]](#)

Marta Antón

Chair and Professor of Spanish



Study abroad

Our students traveled the world in 2015, from Aix-en-Provence, France to Tokyo, Japan. Learn all about their educational adventures and trips to France, Dominican



Republic, Germany, Japan and Spain! [\[Read more\]](#)

Graduate certificate in translation

Did you know the current demand for skilled language translators far outweighs the supply available? Over the course of ten years there's an expected employment growth of 46 percent!

Academically-prepared and highly motivated individuals with advanced language proficiency in English and French, German and/or Spanish who are interested in the study of translation are invited to apply for the new [IUPUI Graduate Certificate in Translation Studies](#). [\[Read more\]](#)

Faculty recognition

[Claudia Grossmann](#) and [Obi Nnaemeka](#) were just two of the many award winners within the Department of World Languages and Cultures this year. [\[Read more\]](#)



New faculty

The [Department of World Languages and Cultures](#) welcomes [Tamara Cabrera](#), [Scott Kochan](#), [Lauren Miller](#), [Martha Payne](#), [Glenn Snyder](#), and [Sharon Wailes](#). [\[Read more\]](#)



Retirement celebration

Colleagues and friends of [Gabrielle Bersier](#) gathered to wish her a happy transition to a new stage of life after thirty-five years at IUPUI. In the last three decades, Gabrielle Bersier has had a distinguished career as an outstanding scholar, expert administrator, exemplary teacher, advisor, mentor, and colleague. [\[Read more\]](#)



My journey to fluency

By Johnna Cade (BA, 2013)

Learning Spanish was not easy for me. I enjoyed learning Spanish and could explain conjugation rules to anyone who needed help, but when it came to speaking I couldn't think fast enough to conjugate correctly. I had no "fluidez" as one would say. My teachers would encourage me to watch different movies, read books in Spanish outside of course curriculum, or listen to Latin radio stations. I became a huge fan of Spanish art especially from Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, and my favorite Spanish movie is "Motorcycle Diaries", which was introduced to me in one of my classes. My classes at IUPUI not only taught me Spanish, but pushed me into loving the Spanish culture even more. [\[Read more\]](#)



Arreola takes liberal arts education overseas

Dreams of living overseas became a reality for one Liberal Arts alumna shortly after her graduation. After studying in France and Germany, Ashley Arreola (BA, French/German, 2006) was ready to make those dreams come true. "In January 2007, I packed two bags and was headed for Paris," she says. "The night before I left for Paris, the house I was living in burned down, and I lost all of my belongings that were not packed in those suitcases. For me, it was a sign. I never looked back." [\[Read more\]](#)



Student and alumni news

Our students and alumni are doing amazing things. Several students received awards during the 2015 Celebration of Scholarship event in April. **Hannah Ishikawa (BA, 2015)** was recognized as the top student in French this year and awarded the Margaret A. Cook Award for Academic Achievement. **Mathew Feltrop (BA, Spanish)**, **Fatima Johnson (BA, Spanish)**, and **Ashley Anderson (MAT graduate)** are some of the WLAC alumni with new career appointments. [\[Read more\]](#)



Curricular innovation

The Department of World Languages and Cultures has experienced growth through online courses and language courses for heritage speakers.

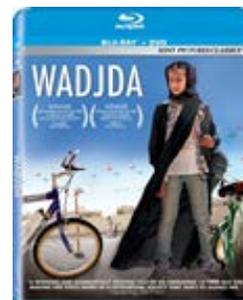
Growth in online courses

This past year, WLAC increased online course options. Funded by Curriculum Enhancement Grants, there are now online versions of first-year courses in French, German, and Spanish, and second-year course sequences in French and Spanish.

Other upper-level courses with online options are *Introduction to Hispanic Culture and Civilization* (Professor Vargas Vila), *German Translation Practice and Business German* (Professor Grossmann), *German film* (Professor Carstensen), and a hybrid graduate course on classroom assessment (Professor Antón). [\[Read more\]](#)

Featured events

The year was filled with big events in the department, and there are more to come. [\[Read more\]](#)



In memoriam

The Department of World Languages and Cultures mourns the passing of our former colleague, long-time friend, and supporter, Edra Staffieri. [\[Read more\]](#)

Faculty highlights

Our faculty continue to do great things. Read all about their publications, lectures, and research. [\[Read more\]](#)



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IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI

Cavanaugh Hall 441 425 University Blvd.

Indianapolis IN, 46202, United States

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