

Interlingua

Newsletter from the Department of Modern and Classical Languages

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Letter from the Chair

As I glimpse through my office window the approach of characteristically winter weather, I can't help but be amazed at how quickly time passes. While outside students splash through 40-degree rain in shorts and flip-flops, inside we're already planning curriculum for Summer Session 2007. The overlap of seasons and the acceleration of time can create an almost humorous chaos. Even *Interlingua*, normally distributed in the summer, has now arrived in your mailbox somewhat "out-of-season." Be that as it may, we hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. We have some exciting news to report, interesting programmatic developments to detail, and some new faculty for you to meet.

As you might suspect, our enrollment continues to be extremely strong. Our programs attract students, both majors and minors, from all over campus, and our enrollments in all languages are higher than the national averages for universities of our size. The hard work of our faculty in delivering a rigorous and diverse curriculum, informed by research and seasoned with experience, has created incredible demand for our classes. Our students, already possessed of an awareness of the importance of the study of language, further enliven our programs, producing a dynamic learning environment that we all enjoy. We have added curriculum, hired new faculty members who specialize in areas previously not well represented in the department, and we will now offer a fourth major, this one in Japanese.

The Japanese major was approved by the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board in September, and we've

already signed up a handful of majors. Japanese faculty have been hard at work developing 300- and 400-level curriculum for the major, and new courses will be taught during all three quarters this year. We're excited about the major, and pleased to be able to provide one of the very few major programs in Japanese in the state.

We have a number of new faculty members to introduce as well. Kendra Douglas, a scholar of Portuguese and Romance Linguistics with a PhD from University of Wisconsin-Madison, became a member of our faculty in 2005. Hugo García, a native of Cuba who just finished up his PhD at The Ohio State University joins us as a tenure-track assistant professor of Spanish. Karen López Alonzo, from Nicaragua by way of Arizona State University, is teaching first and second-year Spanish for the department. Finally, Meredith Josey, PhD from New York University, is teaching in both French and in the English Department this year. We're pleased to welcome these individuals to the department, and we look forward to their contributions to our programs.

There are many more events and much more news described in the pages that follow, and we hope that you enjoy reading about MCL. Your support and interest is integral to our programs, so please don't hesitate to contact us. Huge puddles still appear in Red Square when it rains, so feel free to visit us and take a nostalgic walk through the water while you're here. Flip-flops are optional, umbrellas, it seems, prohibited.

Brent Carbajal

What's New at MCL

Japanese Major Approved

Being an intellectual historian, I have done my best to document the steps we took in developing our new Japanese major. It has been very hard work, and required us to pay great attention to detail. Below you have the record of the process, which we hope you will find of interest.

A major in Japanese (55 credits) was in the making for a long time. The other day I dug out my old memos from 1989 when we had begun making our plans; to these I added a series of memos from 1996, exchanged with Peter Elich, our then-Dean and our then-Chair Darrell Amundson. It wasn't until 2003, however, that things began to move in earnest. By June 2004, we were brainstorming the configuration of the curriculum for a possible major. Then in the Fall of 2004, Dr. Tomasi designed a new course, Japanese 402: "Topics in Japanese Literature," and I designed Japanese 350: "Japanese Culture, History, and Society" as well as Japanese 403: "Topics in Japanese Thought." These courses, together with our application for the creation of a major, were duly approved by the College Curriculum Council in October 2004.

That was our first concrete step. Next we had to compile a complicated document; our current Chair, Brent Carbajal excelled in putting this together. We identified two professors as external evaluators, one from the University of Washington and the other from the University of British Columbia. With their strong endorsements, the Chair submitted the proposal to the Provost, and the Provost to the Higher Education Coordinating Board at Olympia in December 2005. After several exchanges of letters, questions, and answers, the HECB affirmatively voted on our proposal on September 27, the very first day of Fall Quarter 2006.

Meanwhile, we have gone ahead and are offering Japanese 350 this fall, a survey course on historical writings in the original archaic form of the language. Because some of these texts date to the eighth century of our era, they are accompanied by a modern

Japanese translation and an English translation. This is truly a unique experimental course. So far, students are responding well to the challenge of reading the *Tale of Genji*, the *Man'yō poetry collection*, *The Pillow Book*, etc. We look forward to offering Japanese 402 in Winter and Japanese 403 in Spring, 2007.

Japanese language instruction began at Western in the mid-1970s as an overload taught by Dr. Ellis Krauss, then a professor in Political Science, now at the University of California San Diego. When I came to WWU as a faculty member in the Center for East Asian Studies in 1983, the Japanese program began to expand as Dr. Louise Kikuchi brought her expertise in language-teaching methodology. Subsequently, the Japanese Program was moved into the Foreign Languages Department under Dr. Jesse Hiraoka's chairmanship. The annual Japan Week that began in 1996 increased the visibility of the Japanese Program campus- and state-wide. We are very grateful to the Consul-General of Japan at Seattle as well as to those local business people and entrepreneurs who have helped in making the Major in Japanese a reality through their support of and contributions to Japan Week.

Our most heartfelt thanks go to the faculty members of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, and most of all to the Chair, Brent Carbajal. But we must not forget our alumni and students who are currently studying Japanese. It is this concerted effort of everyone involved in the system that made it possible for us to have the Major in Japanese.

The bottom line is that interested students can now major in Japanese. For detailed information, please log on to our departmental website.

Professor Michiko Yusa, PhD

A Letter from Germany

The Modern and Classical Language Department puts a great deal of emphasis upon study-abroad programs. Our students who take the opportunity to improve their language skills in other countries earn university credit while experiencing other

cultures firsthand, and developing their own personalities in ways that are always significant and sometimes delightfully surprising.

Ms. Theresa Turner and her experience in a language school in Germany are in many ways typical and representative for what happens to many of our students, when they go on their first trip abroad, get into contact with the people, their customs, and their language. I cannot stress enough the difference that I have seen in Ms. Turner between Spring quarter of 2006 when she took a business German class with me, and the Fall quarter 2006 while she is taking a film course with me. It is not only her level of German that has improved tremendously but it is her whole outlook on life, her more self-assured way of presenting herself to others.

The school that we recommended in her case is a school that is highly subsidized with monies from the German government, and the school is not intended for the average American student and their specific needs but is generally geared more toward students from former communist countries or developing nations and therefore offers our students even more diverse cultural insights while on this program.

Walter Suess

“The experiences I had studying at Akademie Klausenhof were incomparable to any other in my entire life. The school fosters the most wonderful atmosphere, beginning with the rural surrounding, a small town by the name of Dingden, and ending with the energetic and fun attitudes of the staff.

“Before I had left on my adventure, I was absolutely terrified of the fact that I was going to a foreign country alone for two entire months. I thought I was out of my mind, but at the same time knew that in order to fully understand the German language and culture, first-hand experience was the only way to go. When I arrived I was taken aback by the peaceful scenery that surrounded the small school. The staff immediately helped me to my room, located in a beautiful brick dormitory that overlooked an enchanting

wooded area. I soon found that I was the only American attending those months, and the thought made me very nervous. Yet, it only took a day or two before I became good friends with people from all over the world: Poland, Romania, Kazakhstan, Russia, Nigeria, India, and many other places. It was an amazing experience to meet people with such different backgrounds. The classroom setting was very enlightening and fun. It is scheduled in such a way that for the entire two months you have the same people in your class, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Therefore, you would become very close with your classmates, which made learning both educational as well as enjoyable. The school often planned fun activities, including a trip to Amsterdam and Cologne. There would be volleyball, ping-pong and soccer tournaments. If that didn't interest you, you could head into the small town and talk with the local Germans. They were always very welcoming to exchange-students wanting to improve their German. If you wanted to go shopping, there was a large town with streets filled with shops only five minutes away by train. On Thursdays and Saturdays, there would be a disco at the school's pub. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, you had the opportunity to go to an art class, where a teacher would give you one-on-one help with painting, sculpting, or drawing.

“Due to the fact that I was the only American, I could only speak German to communicate with the others. This factor truly improved my speaking ability. No longer was I speaking German only in a classroom, but rather at all times of the day. Therefore, this trip gave me a good look at the German culture, as well as a solid understanding of the German language.

“I arrived home in the Sea-Tac airport, and found myself mixing German words with English words. The people at the baggage claim thought that I was German, and were having trouble with my English language. It was then that I realized that this trip was well worth it. Although terrifying at the beginning, the end result – being able to speak a second language – is the most gratifying result of all.”

WWU Hosts Chinese Linguistics Conference

On June 23-25, WWU hosted the eighteenth North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics. The hard work of organizing this conference was done by Dr. Janet Xing, who also served as chair. Four keynote speakers, Dr. Audrey Li, Dr. Frederick Newmeyer, Dr. Jerry Norman, and Dr. Chaofen Sun, were invited to participate. Of the more than 130 abstracts submitted, seventy papers were selected and presented at the conference. Thanks to effort and application on the part of the faculty of the Linguistics Program and Chinese language section, the conference was a great success. Generous support was provided by the Provost, the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Linguistics Program, the Center for East Asian Studies, and the Department of Modern and Classical Languages.

Our New Faculty Members

Karen López Alonzo

My name is Karen López Alonzo, and I have come to Western as a new lecturer to teach beginning and intermediate Spanish. I am originally from Nicaragua, and received my Master's degree in Spanish from Arizona State University.

Coming from the merciless heat of the desert, I embraced Bellingham right away. While communing with nature, I thought, "This is paradise!" And I still think so!

During my first weeks here the place opened up, and I discovered a natural wilderness that showed me indescribable sunsets. I also realized that while walking in Bellingham there is no chance of getting bored with monotonous streets: they are not designed in straight lines.

This is actually my second time in the Pacific Northwest. I had lived in Portland, Oregon as an undergraduate, and had wanted then to live in some place similar. Now here I am! In addition, I have found in Bellingham my perfect path, the one that

offers me my life's passion: teaching Spanish. I have found many reasons to enjoy this city. One of the most compelling is my students: their enthusiasm for learning the Spanish language is more than I had ever expected. Most importantly, I have met wonderful people who have given me the warmest of welcomes.

Kendra Douglas

As a new member of the faculty, I want to express my appreciation for the warm welcome I received last year from the faculty, staff, and students. It is a pleasure to work at an institution with contagious enthusiasm. I am inspired by my colleagues, who are at the forefront of their fields, and by the staff, which is so generous in its support. Moreover, I find great inspiration in the drive and dedication of our students to master the inner-workings of language, be it Spanish, Portuguese, or linguistics.

The 2005-2006 academic year was filled with exciting opportunities and experiences. Among them was the occasion to teach contact linguistics, my main field of research. Sharing my own fieldwork experience and advising students in gathering, analyzing, and presenting original data has been very rewarding, particularly seeing the final product in the Linguistics Student Colloquia. In December 2005, I presented a new model for analyzing three-dimensional language contact in Uruguay at the Modern Languages Association Conference in Washington, D.C. In the spring, I had the pleasure of addressing Professor Underwood's methods class to demonstrate how online tutoring is used as a tool to supplement Spanish classroom instruction. During the summer quarter, a dedicated group of Spanish students successfully embraced my challenge of becoming proficient in Portuguese in only five weeks!

Culminating an exciting first year was an achievement of a lifetime: I walked the 500-mile Camino Francés from Saint-Jean-Pied-du-Port, France to Santiago de Compostela, Spain in 30 days. Walking across Spain is a unique way to observe the natural surroundings and participate in Spanish life. I was struck by the history of

the Camino, the traditions, and rituals, realizing I was following the footsteps of twelve centuries of pilgrims. Unknowingly walking into a village on a festival day was among the highlights. I felt the rush of running from the bulls in Los Arcos, the delight of dancing in the plaza in Belorado, and the satisfaction of watching a historical and modern-day reenactment of the Camino in Grañón. I felt a sense of inspiration when I interpreted the pilgrim's blessing in San Juan de Ortega, a sense of longing in listening to the Galician bagpipers in O Cebreiro, and a true sense of accomplishment as I arrived in Santiago on day 30. Full of stories of language and culture, I continue to share my experiences with my students and colleagues with the hope that I may inspire them to explore the languages and cultures of the world.



463km to Santiago Near O Cebreiro

Hugo García

I would like to share with you my first experiences of Bellingham and Western Washington University, but first I should introduce myself. I am Hugo García, and this Autumn I have undertaken my new position as Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages.

My relationship with Western and with Bellingham began in Spring of 2006, when I made my first visit here. At that time I was finishing my doctoral studies at The Ohio State University and, as a very fresh professional coming out of school, I was naturally a little nervous. After all, I was being looked at and evaluated for a job. However, at the same time I was very happy.

I had never visited the Pacific Northwest before, but I had heard that the region had a very special culture and that the university was very good.

My first view of Bellingham was at night. Officially my visit was scheduled to begin the next morning; nevertheless, that night I felt a special connection with this place that I had never seen by daylight. Everything started with the air, which smelled very different from Ohio. The pleasant breeze of the night brought a subtle scent I could recognize but couldn't identify. After my first dinner in Bellingham, with Brent and Amy Carbajal, I was taken to my hotel. I was really tired because the flight – or the three flights, I should say – from Columbus to Bellingham had been long and stressful. However, I was eager to know the place, so I decided to listen more to my enthusiasm than to my fatigue. I took the stairs to the street and in a few seconds I was walking in Fairhaven. It seemed to me to be a very nice town, so I started looking around the illuminated but almost completely lonely streets. I hadn't walked very far when I discovered a mysterious and dark emptiness: the sea. What a joyful experience! The sea, again. It had been more than seven years since I had seen the Caribbean sea for the last time, in my short flight from Havana to Miami. Although now it was late at night and I was walking by myself along the streets, I could feel an inexplicable association with the place I had been in for not more than two hours. Next day I would relate to the other professors in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. And I would experience the significance of Western Washington University, the maturity of the student body, and again, the surprising view of the sea.

Now, teaching at Western and living in Bellingham, I can verify all the good comments I had heard before about the Pacific Northwest. I have also come to realize that people from Bellingham and from Havana have something in common: in both cities there is a frankness and openness experienced only in those cities that are open to the sea, that immensity that is only one, although we have tried to name it in different ways. The same immense and mysterious

body, coming and going, as eternal renovation of life, now revives my desire to teach and research Caribbean cultures, especially the culture of Cuba.

Meredith Josey

Meredith Josey hails from Atlanta, Georgia and attended the Institut de Touraine in Tours, France and the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. After graduation from Georgia with a BA in French, she taught English as a Second Language in Nitra, Slovakia, and in Paris, France. The year 1997 found Meredith back in the States at New York University, where she undertook graduate work in Linguistics; she was awarded her PhD from NYU in January of 2004. Her dissertation, entitled "A Sociolinguistic Study of Phonetic Variation and Change on the Island of Martha's Vineyard," investigates dialectal change over a span of forty years in the speech of local island inhabitants. From 2003 until 2005 Meredith taught Sociolinguistics, French, ESL, and Composition as an assistant professor at Utica College and Hamilton College in upstate New York. In the 2005-2006 term she moved to the Pacific Northwest with her husband, Oliver, and taught French at the prestigious Bush School in Seattle. We consider ourselves very fortunate to be able to welcome her to our faculty as a visiting assistant professor. This term she is teaching Elementary French in our department, as well as Linguistics in the English Department and English as a Second Language in the Department of Education's TESOL program.

Hiromi Suzuki

My name is Hiromi Suzuki. I'm from near Nagoya, the third-largest city in Japan. (It's not a famous city, but it organized the World Exposition of 2005, and it has lots of special local cuisine.) Here at WWU I'm a lecturer in Japanese. I teach first-year classes of Japanese language, a course in Kanji, and Japanese 202.

I came to WWU this past September, but this is actually the second time I've worked here. My first experience teaching at WWU was during the 2002-2003 academic

year when I was still working on my Master's Degree through an exchange program for people interested primarily in teaching. It was my first experience as a teacher, and I learned lots of things here.

After I went back to Japan, I took my MA degree in March 2005. After that I taught French language (my undergraduate major was French) for one semester at a university in Japan. During the last academic year, I taught Japanese in France at Grenoble. Grenoble, the site of the Winter Olympics of 1968, has many nice ski areas and lots of beautiful mountains. It's not very far from Mt. Blanc, and is a nice nature area very similar to Bellingham.

But unfortunately I had an unusual experience there. There were many strikes and labor disruptions. All over the university campus students set up barricades to strike the university and parade and demonstrate. For about a month we couldn't hold any classes. Nobody knew when the strike would be over and when the university would reopen. Teachers were the only ones preparing classes, and needed a lot of patience.

Fortunately, I had the opportunity to come back to WWU, even to the same office where I had been before. I am really excited to be teaching at WWU, and really appreciate this opportunity. On campus sometimes I meet my former students who now work here or are back as graduate students. It's a precious time for me.

If you (my former student, or anyone) should visit WWU, please come and see me and say Konnichiwa! ('Hello!' in Japanese). I'm always happy to see you.

Section and Program News

Chinese

The Chinese Language Program "WWU in Kunming" provided the opportunity for language students Nathan Campan, Michael Caster, Rachel Conrad, Francois Divens-Cogez, Ryan Gleeson, Fred Polinder and Alyssa Thornley to study and travel in China during the summer of 2006. The program was established in 2000 with Professor Janet

Xing as the first resident director; this year's resident director was Professor Ning Yu. Students spent a week in Beijing and eight weeks in Kunming studying Chinese language and culture. After the program concluded, several students, including Wendy Overton who had studied in Beijing, traveled in Sichuan Province and then met with Professor Kathleen Tomlonovic in Chengdu. Dr. Tomlonovic was participating in the International Conference on Song Dynasty culture where she presented the paper "Political Relationships between Empress Dowagers and Civil Officials of the Northern Song Dynasty."

In addition, Dr. Ho-chin Yang had two Chinese translations of Tashi Tsering's autobiographical works published this summer. The first one is entitled *Xizang shi wo jia* 西藏是我家 (Tibet is My Home), published by the China Tibetology Publishing House in Beijing. The second one is entitled *Xizang xing xue ji* 西藏兴学记 (School Building Projects in Tibet), published by Greenlight Press, U.S.A. Both books were originally written in English and published in the U.S.A. Thanks to Dr. Yang's translations of these works into Chinese, they are now available in bookstores in China so that Chinese readers will have the opportunity to read accounts of the life of Tashi Tsering of Lhasa — a great Tibetan educator, a successful businessman and a generous philanthropist.

Classical Studies

Greek and Latin continue to attract students to our department. Our first-year courses in these languages fill up at 50 and 60 students respectively; many of the students continue on into the second year to complete their minors. 2006 was a banner year for us, because it was in Winter Quarter 2006 that we inaugurated our first 400-level course in Latin: Latin 401, devoted to the epic poetry of Vergil. Its sister course, Greek 401: Homeric Epic, will be offered next year. In addition to our language courses, we have enjoyed record enrollment figures for our big lecture courses in mythology and ancient literature in translation. A special treat for the Classical Studies minors was Aki

Watanabe's Classical Studies 450: the Ancient Novel.

Increasing interest in Classical Languages is also apparent in student activities promoted by our Classics section. The students' club, Delta Beta Kappa, has had a very busy year bringing students together, both in regular club meetings, in the Mensa Latina, in the sponsoring of a movie series, and in the presentation of three excellent speakers. In February of 2006 we invited Catherine Mori, Latin and French teacher at St. George's School in Vancouver, Canada, to talk about her experiences in the high school language class. Toph Marshall of the University of British Columbia spoke on masks in ancient tragic productions. And this Autumn Dr. Bruce Prior of Simon Fraser University gave a presentation on ancient manuscripts and manuscript editing.

Our Classics graduates make us very proud. Mary Jane Cuyler is in her second year at University of Texas at Austin. Rachel Fisher began work this Autumn towards a Master's Degree in the University of Kentucky's Institutum Latinum. Both graduates have promising careers before them, and we think of them often.

This past summer, Diane Johnson had the opportunity to attend the conference of the Academia Latinitati Fovendae, held in Alcaniz and Amposta in Spain. The Academia supports the active use of Latin in teaching and research, and its conference this year focused upon Latin pedagogy from the fourteenth century to the present. Akihiko Watanabe participates on a regular basis in the Commoraciones, organized Latin outings, held monthly at Seattle during the school year.

East Asian Studies

This past year, Dr. Kathleen Tomlonovic (Chinese) completed her second term as director, passing on a thriving program with an increasing number of majors. Dr. Edward Vajda assumed the directorship in January 2006. In May 2006, the East Asian Studies program assisted in bringing to Bellingham the Mongolian musical ensemble Tumen Ekh, which gave a stunning performance to a packed Performing Arts Center audience. In October 2006 Chinese education specialist

Liu Shi not only gave a lecture on the state of the university in contemporary China, but attended our Chinese languages classes to provide students with interesting opportunities for discussion. Tuvan poet and novelist Galsan Tschinag gave a talk and a demonstration of Tuvan song at the Whatcom Museum this Autumn as well. WWU is also fortunate to have this year a second Fulbright Scholar from Mongolia, Munkhzaya Batchuluun. Zaya, as she is affectionately known to her students, is continuing the Mongolian language course begun last year by her predecessor, Bayarmaa Dulam.

French

The collaboration of the four professors in the French section, Vicki Hamblin, Edouard Ousselin, Fallou Ngom and Cécile Hanania, continues to prove fruitful. The enrollment of students in French classes is high and new sections of French have been added to the curriculum. Two new part-time faculty, Dr. Meredith Josey and Annabelle Vergne-McHugh, have been hired to teach some of the language sections this year. We are pleased to report that all students who applied for the assistantship in France were accepted and are currently there teaching English. One student of ours, Anne Hearling, won the outstanding graduating senior award last June.

All the French professors have also been very active in research and various activities. During the winter and spring quarters of 2006, Vicki Hamblin undertook the writing of a book project entitled *Saints at Play: The Performance Features of French Hagiographic Mystery Plays*. This project has been approved for publication by a university press in early 2008. As part of her research for that project, Hamblin spent the month of May in Paris examining medieval performance manuscripts and early editions at the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

Professor Ousselin was tenured and promoted to the rank of associate professor. Prof. Ousselin taught the 402 Business French course for the first time as part of the normal course rotation. He presented a paper on Robert Guédiguian's films at the AATF

Convention in Québec and published articles on Julien Duvivier, Victor Hugo, Jules Romains, and Mme de Staël. He also began serving as Creative Works Review Editor for *The French Review*.

Professor Ngom was invited by WARA (West African Research Association) to participate in a collaborative research program called TICFIA (Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access) on the themes of diversity and tolerance in Senegal and Ghana. Thus, he spent the summer of 2006 in Senegal to collect Wolof, Pulaar, Mandingo and Joola Fogany Ajami texts (African languages written with modified Arabic scripts) that address the themes of diversity and tolerance. He met with some renowned Ajami writers and scholars in various communities in Senegambia. The data collected will be used in a series of online teaching and research galleries located at MATRIX at Michigan State University. This year, he has also been elected a new member of the Board of Directors of WARA.

Professor Hanania traveled to Vietnam and Cambodia in December 2005 to explore the childhood locales of French writer Marguerite Duras. She took numerous pictures for her classes and posted a number of them to the Duras Society website. She presented several papers on Marguerite Duras in Coeur d'Alène, Idaho; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Louvain, Belgium; and published articles on Dany Laferrière, Henri Raczymow and Roland Barthes.

German

The German section is doing very nicely and has seen some big changes over the last year. One of the biggest issues was that we dropped all the courses that were offered in English and thus made more room for culture and literature seminars in German. One of these exciting new courses is Dr. Partsch's newly designed "Contemporary German Culture" seminar. The students are already very excited about these changes. Another class that gives our students a different perspective is Dr. Suess' course on German culture of the 20th century through feature films. Our drama course where the students at the end of the quarter perform a play in

German draws excited crowds to the final show. If anyone is interested, please join us at the end of Winter quarter for a performance of Max Frisch's "Andorra." (Call the department for details.)

Individually the news for Dr. Partsch is probably the most exciting with respect to his career, since he has applied for tenure and promotion this year. He is an outstanding scholar and teacher, and we're all excited about his work.

Not less important has been the academic success for Dr. Petra Fiero, who had her manuscript on Barbara Honigmann, a prominent voice in German-Jewish letters and fiction, accepted for publication with one of the leading publishing houses in Germany. She was also nominated vice president of AATG Washington chapter and will become president of the chapter in two years.

Frau Ingrid Kassler is as active as ever in teaching German. She is really excited about going on a trip to Berlin, Leipzig, and Dresden in the Winter break, and she'll likely come back with many stories for her students and colleagues.

Dr. Weiss also continues in German and linguistics. He enthusiastically teaches in both programs, and his report on linguistics is provided in this newsletter.

Dr. Suess was honored with the teacher of the year award from the Washington Association of Foreign Language Teachers. This prestigious and well-deserved recognition serves as excellent commendation as Dr. Suess prepares to retire from the department and pursue some of his many other interests at a more leisurely pace.

Japanese

2006 has become a memorable year for the Japanese Program, because we have been authorized by the Higher Education Coordinating Board of the State of Washington to offer our students a Major in Japanese. This means that students will no longer have to go through the process of designing a major through the Liberal Studies' department, but now can simply declare through Modern and Classical Languages. The process through which we have attained our present status has been described by Professor Michiko Yusa in her

article in this issue of *Interlingua*. We celebrated our new major with a spectacular dinner at the home of Consul-General of Japan in Seattle, the honorable Kazuo Tanaka. It was attended by Professors Yusa and Deguchi, along with President Karen Morse, Provost Andrew Bodman, Dean Ronald Kleinknecht and our Chair, Brent Carbajal.

We are in the process of developing several new courses, some of which are already being offered as of Fall 2006. Japanese 402 and 403 are variable-topic courses, taught in Japanese, on selected Japanese authors and thinkers. Japanese 350 is a survey course on Japanese culture, history, and society. We also added Japanese 104, to be offered in Fall 2007, and combined Japanese 201 and 202 into a course which will be offered in Winter 2008. We will continue to develop additional courses to supply our majors with the best education we can provide.

We are pleased to welcome to our new tenure-track position Dr. Masanori Deguchi. Masa has been teaching in the department since 2003, dividing his time between courses in the Linguistics section (semantics and Japanese linguistics) and Japanese language. Now he will continue to do the same, but we are happy to have him on a more permanent basis.

Returning this year is Hiromi Suzuki, once again contributing to our faculty after several years-absence in Japan and France.

This past year Dr. Massimiliano Tomasi completed his study of Japanese literary critic Shimamura Hogetsu (1871-1918). During Winter 2007 Dr. Tomasi will be teaching courses on Italian authors in WWU's Study Abroad Program at Siena in Italy

In June 2006, Dr. Yusa was invited to give two seminars on Japanese Religions and Japanese Philosophy and Performing Arts to the fellows of the Japanese Studies Institute held at the San Diego State University. This is a program hosted by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities every summer. In addition, Dr. Yusa organized the annual conference for the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, held at Asilomar near Monterey in June of this year. An international

conference honoring her dissertation advisor, Professor Raimon Panikkar, held in Mumbai (Bombay) in India, took her for the first time to that subcontinent in December 2005. She is contributing as always to the variety of activities hosted by the Japanese Program.

Some consider our annual Japan Week to be the jewel in our crown. This year's Japan Week, May 1-5, 2006, focused on the theme of "Language, Culture, and Art," and began with the annual event of students' bilingual speech presentations. We particularly emphasized the participatory experience for this year, so students were actually able to take part in the traditional tea ceremony hosted by the Urasenke Foundation, or joined a mock visit to a sushi restaurant to learn more about the cultural significance of Japanese cuisine. On the final day we had the good fortune to enjoy a presentation by the virtuoso Takeo Tanabe, who demonstrated the art of basketry in bamboo.

In short, the academic year 2005-2006 turned out to be a profoundly significant year for the Japanese section, and we renew our commitment to promoting the appreciation of Japanese culture through the study of the Japanese language.

Linguistics

Western has reason to be proud of its linguistics program. It has distinguished itself as a quality program and has grown to be one of the largest undergraduate linguistics programs in the US; this is due in no small part this to the close ties the program enjoys with the MCL department. The program started off this academic year with almost 100 majors and will probably peak at 120-plus majors before the end of the academic year. The linguistics program is interdisciplinary and as such involves the cooperation of seven departments in any of which students may form a concentration. However, our closest links by far are with the MCL department. Such strong ties between linguistics and foreign languages are actually fairly unique. Our co-relationship involves the following:

Firstly, all linguistics majors are required to fulfill a language requirement, either the second university level language

study or the first year if a non Indo-European language is chosen. Fully one-third of our students choose to meet this requirement by taking Chinese or Japanese. Thanks to the high quality of these programs in our department, many linguistics students in these areas choose to continue their studies in the language to a higher level.

Secondly, the plurality of linguistics majors are double majors, and most of these double majors have chosen a foreign language as their other major.

Thirdly, most of the faculty teaching linguistics courses are indeed also regular faculty of the MCL department; in fact, only one course (two sections) of the linguistics core courses is taught by non-MCL staff. Since most of the faculty and the director are in the MCL department, our department is unusually strongly endowed with linguistics faculty whose teaching and research interests cover virtually all areas in linguistics. We have linguistics specialists in French, Hispanic, German, Chinese, Japanese, and Slavic languages, and can even boast to having an African linguist on our staff. These specialists are also published authorities in such areas as sociolinguistics, phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, discourse analysis, forensic linguistics and applied linguistics in various languages, just to name a few.

I think we can be justly proud to have such a talented and versatile faculty in our department. In the arena of linguistics representation, I think we can hold our own against virtually any institution's linguistics talents. I'm sure that my colleagues in the MCL department would agree that this is also the case in describing the strength of our faculty in literature and culture as well.

Russian

Fall 2006 saw the largest ever group of first-year Russian students – some eighty in all. With Russia currently enjoying political stability and increasing oil revenues, opportunities for Americans to travel and work in Russia are on the increase. This is driving a steady rise in interest in Russian language. Russian has changed greatly since the collapse of the Soviet Union fifteen years ago. Hundreds of English loanwords have

taken root, as have new expressions of all sorts. From the perspective of keeping track of these changes, Dr. Edward Vajda (Russian Section Coordinator) was fortunate to make three trips to Russia this past year – to Tomsk in Siberia, St. Petersburg and Moscow. In Tomsk he delivered a plenary talk at the third LENCA Conference. In St. Petersburg he participated in a conference to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of E. A. Kreinovich, renowned specialist in Siberian languages. Professor Vajda also gave a series of lectures on the Ket language at the St. Petersburg branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Spanish

The members of the Spanish section send warmest greetings to Western graduates who have studied with us. We want to hear from you and we'd like you to know about our activities too. Perhaps the biggest news is that Dr. Kendra Douglas, Dr. Hugo García, and Karen López Alonzo have joined the department as the latest additions to the Spanish section faculty. We are delighted that they chose to come to Western.

The Spanish section's instructional activity both in and outside of the classroom is varied and dynamic. Thanks to two new faculty positions, we are able to now offer a few more grammar, phonetics, literature, and culture sections, benefiting our students by keeping class sizes a bit smaller. Our students continue to especially enjoy our senior topics seminars, which are continuously changing thanks to our faculty's constant development. Lately we have offered courses on García Lorca, Spanish contemporary fiction, Latin American poetry, and *El Quijote*, among others. Also, this coming Spring, Prof. Brent Carbajal will be teaching a course on the Mexican "Generación del Crack." Prof. Carbajal is enjoying being back in the classroom again after last year when he chaired the English Department.

The Spanish section travels extensively to keep in touch with current culture and to participate in academic gatherings. Brent Carbajal presented a paper at LASA in San Juan, Puerto Rico, last March and is currently doing research on the

Mexican "Generación del Crack." Prof. Hoffman has published on Galdós, María de Zayas, and Emilia Pardo Bazán since the last *Interlingua* came out. She has done two book reviews for the journal *Hispania*, and she has presented papers in Chapel Hill and Riverside. This last one was by special invitation: " 'She loves with love that cannot tire': The Image of the Angel in the House Across Cultures and Across Time." Prof. Paredes presented papers in Coeur d'Alène, Salamanca (Spain), and Tucson. She has published two articles on gender and nation in the Spanish twentieth century. Prof. Gynan is currently enjoying a sabbatical and using his time to do research on linguistics issues in Paraguay, a topic that has occupied his interest in the last few years. Our faculty has been active in creative endeavors as well. Daniel Rangel-Guerrero published several poems in the last issue of *The World's Muse* and Prof. Hoffman will be contributing to the next issue. John Underwood has been busy as director of the Language Media Center and as the advisor for all the Modern and Classical Languages students who get a teaching endorsement.

All in all, it has been a wonderful year and we are looking forward to the future. We ask you all to keep in touch with us and let us know of your works and progress.

Speakers and Presentations

Beginning in January of 2006, our department established an Activities Committee to arrange speakers and presentations of an academic interest both to our diverse sections and to the larger university community. In the past we have benefited a great deal from the speakers our individual sections invite on a regular basis; it is our hope that we'll be able to contribute to these with presentations across the disciplines, aimed at both faculty and students.

The speakers who presented during our first year have been diverse and informative. In February, Wari Zárate discussed indigenous elements in the contemporary arts of Peru; he supplemented the fascinating materials he presented with some slides of

his own works that draw upon native Peruvian themes. Bekircan Tehberer in March spoke to a large audience of students and faculty on the historical interpretation of Turks and Greeks, emphasizing how our attitudes toward both nations have been influenced by the political agenda of historians. Speaking to Spanish majors, Jim Lockman introduced those going into teacher-education to some of the challenges and rewards found in high-school teaching. In May, Nora Strejilevich spoke on Argentina's "Dirty War" and its legacy; while Senegalese religious leader Serigne Atou Diagne introduced the principles of Mouridisme to a large and engaged audience. Along with these excellent speakers, we enjoyed talks given by members of our faculty here at WWU: Dr. Vajda spoke on the linguistic structure of Ket, while Bayarmaa Dulam (last year's visiting Fulbright Scholar) introduced us to some aspects of the Mongolian educational system.

Language Tables

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages has a number of student "tables," at which students and faculty can gather outside of class to practice their languages on a stress-free level, enjoy each other's company, and engage in a variety of activities: discussing new books, watching films, listening to guest speakers. We've included a few photos of some of our tables.



Obituary

Robert Balas, Professor Emeritus of French, died at his Bellingham home on November 14, 2006.

Bob completed the PhD in French Literature at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and had been a member of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages from 1969 until his retirement in 2001.

Bob was instrumental in the creation in 1985 of an audio/visual language laboratory in the Humanities Building. With the support of a grant in 1999, he oversaw the installation of a new computer-based lab (the present Language Media Center), located in Haggard Hall 114 along with the department's sizable collection of foreign-language videos. He also played a major part in establishing an interdepartmental Canadian-American Studies major with concentration in Québec Studies, a project he shared with his wife, Dr. Anne George.

Bob will be remembered by both colleagues and students as a dedicated teacher with a quick sense of humor. He was well-known on campus for his talent in drawing caricatures.

He is survived by his wife, Anne George, and his son, Charles.

Outstanding Graduating Senior

Every year, from among those graduating seniors majoring in French, German and Spanish, (and Japanese, starting in 2007), the faculty of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages selects one to receive the honor of being its official "Outstanding Graduate Senior." We are immensely proud of all three of the nominees, and would like to give them recognition here.

Anne M. Haerling, winner of the title, is "an excellent student," according to Cécile Hanania, coordinator of the French section. She impressed her professors through "consistently displaying that rare quality that educators particularly appreciate: she actually wants to learn more than what is taught in

class. Anne shows the sort of intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm worthy of a future scholar." In addition to her French major, Anne received a minor in German and in Music. While completing her degree, she was very active in the French Club, of which she served as president, and worked as a tutor in French. Anne is currently teaching as an assistant in a high school in northern France, and plans on pursuing a career in teaching and translating.

According to Petra Fiero, German coordinator, the nominee of the German section, Aaron Hugeback, made a profound impression for a variety of reasons. He graduated this last June with a combined major in German and Politics/Philosophy/Economics, and a minor in Business Administration. Aaron has acquired a high level of fluency in German thanks to a year spent at the Johannes-Brahms-Schule in Pinneberg in its Parlamentarisches Patenschaftsprogramm. While working on his undergraduate degree, Aaron participated actively in the Stammtisch, volunteered as a German tutor, and helped the section by surveying student opinions on curricular matters. In addition, Aaron played major roles in Dr. Suess' staging of two German plays, and participated in soccer matches with Dr. Partsch.

The Spanish section has enjoyed such a wealth of excellent students that faculty could not decide between the two top-ranking candidates for nominee. Mark Francis, who is currently working in law enforcement and planning further training at the FBI Academy, impressed his professors with "his willingness to participate in class, and his constant interest and curiosity on every aspect of the Spanish language and cultures," according to Paqui Paredes. Joe Casillas, the Spanish section's other choice, "was no less outstanding. Joe was a constant presence in the halls of the Humanities Building, and was one of our most committed Spanish tutors." Joe Casillas is currently teaching English to Spanish students in Cádiz, Spain, through a grant from the Spanish government, and is hoping to be admitted to the graduate program in Spanish Literature at Middlebury College.

These outstanding students are truly the apples of our department's eye.

Alumni News

Karlyn (Benjamin) Angel, 1991 – Karlyn received her degree from Western in Spanish K-12 Education. She lives in Vancouver, Washington, and teaches in the neighboring Battle Ground School District. In Spring 2005 she was nominated to the "Teachers Make a Difference" team in her district. Beginning in Fall of 2005 she undertook the teaching of the first-ever advanced placement Spanish class at Battle Ground High School.

Dennis Bauer, 1970 – After graduating from Western with a BA Ed in German, Dennis became in 1971 Distinguished Naval Graduate from the flight school in Pensacola, Florida; then went on to serve with distinction in Viet Nam. In 1978 he received the degree of Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego's Law School. From 1979 until 1985 he served as a Los Angeles District Attorney, and from 1985 to the present as Orange County Senior DDA. He serves on the National DNA Faculty. Dennis has traveled widely in Europe, Africa, Australia and Asia. He and his wife Cynthia have two sons, Dean and Chad.

Kimberly See, 2003 – Kimberly is currently an instructor of English in Cheonan, South Korea.

Wendy Griffin, 1977 – After graduating from what was in 1977 Western Washington State College with minors in French and Russian, Wendy joined the Air Force and attended Monterey Foreign Language Institute where she learned Spanish. Centered in Honduras for the past twenty years, Wendy has taught at the university level, worked as an English-language newspaper reporter, and published five books in Spanish on a variety of topics related to the indigenous cultures of Honduras.

Helen Hollister, 2003 – Helen graduated from Western with a degree in Spanish. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in San

Antonio, El Quiché, Guatemala, where she worked as a youth health promoter. She currently teaches Spanish at a high school in Harlem, New York City.

Siri Hulbert, 1991 – Siri graduated with a degree in Spanish Education, and then traveled widely in Japan, Thailand, South America and Europe. A resident of Seattle, Siri has taught advanced placement Spanish in high school, and was the first recipient of the Rotary International Ambassador teacher grant. Siri taught in Mexico for the academic year 2005-2006.

Judith Kimmel-Ramírez, 1992 – Judith is a technology lab teacher at the American School Foundation of Guadalajara. After graduating from Western with a degree in Spanish, she completed her first Master's Degree in International Education at Framingham State College in Massachusetts in 1998, and is currently working on her second Master's Degree in Education with a concentration in technology and curriculum. Judith has traveled widely in Mexico, married there, and has lived and worked in Jalisco for almost ten years. She is the mother of two children, Christopher and Katie Beth.

Richard Mjelke, 1990 – Graduating with a degree in French, Richard went into the Peace Corps and has traveled extensively in Europe and Mexico. He has pursued the career of a registered nurse. He and his wife, Karla, live in Arizona.

Cassandra Munson, 2001 – Cassandra is a K-8 Spanish teacher. After graduation, she traveled in Chile and Argentina, studying, skiing, and snowboarding. She received a Master's Degree from Montana State University in Curriculum and Instruction in 2005.

Abigail Neumiller, 2001 – After receiving her degree in Spanish and TESL, Abigail taught English in Japan in 2001, then worked and traveled in Paraguay and El Salvador in the summer of 2005. She started a Spanish conversation group in Seattle.

Lynn M. Parnell, 1965 – With her husband, Rick, Lynn spent the three years between 2000 and 2003 cruising in Mexico and Central America aboard the sailboat "Sapphire." She has now returned to South Puget Sound Community College, where she teaches Spanish.

Leanna Bridge Rezvani, 1995 – After graduating from Western with a BA in French, Leanna received her PhD in French literature from Boston College. Her dissertation topic was Marguerite de Navarre, Madame de Lafayette, and the *Querelle des Femmes*. She is currently a lecturer of French at MIT.

Erica (Fordyce) Riley, 2004 – Leaving Western with a degree in Spanish and Secondary Education, Erica currently teaches Spanish to grades 9-12 at Oak Harbor High School. She was married in August 2004, and gave birth to twins, Isabel and Blake on May 3, 2005.

Allison Schmidtke, 1997 – Allison received degrees in Spanish and Music from Western before going on to travel extensively in Latin America. Allison has just completed a Master's Degree in Music in Saxophone Performance at the University of North Texas. She is currently teaching 5th through 12th grade band at Seoul International School in South Korea.

Melanie Schweder, 2003 – Melanie graduated with a degree in German with TESL certification. She did her student-teaching in Germany, and currently teaches German in the Lake Washington School District.

Sean T. Taechner, 1988 – Sean received a Master's of Education in 2004, and teaches in the Kent School District. He authored a book "Finding Gold in Washington State, 2005–2006 Edition."

Shauna Seydell, 1999 – Shauna married Chris Walton (WWU class of 2001) in 2001. She finished a Master's Program in Spanish Linguistics at San Diego State University in

May 2004. She is currently teaching Spanish in San Diego.

Michelle Wiley, 2000 – A graduate in Spanish, Michelle currently teaches Spanish and ELL (English Language Learners) at Everett High School. She received National Board certification in 2004.

Heather Wolf, 1999 – Heather graduated with degrees in Spanish and Sociology. She married in August 2001, and now has a three-year old son, Noah Hughes. Heather is employed as a paralegal in Redmond, Washington.

The World's Muse

We'd like to let you alumni and alumnae know that the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at Western Washington University has a very interesting journal to which you or someone you know may want to contribute: *The World's Muse: A Journal of Creative Writing in World Languages*.

We publish creative writing of any kind: short stories, essays, short drama, poetry, book reviews, and movie reviews (if there is a film or new book out that you would like to review for us, please contact the editor). Our only stipulation is that your work not be written in English.

Anyone is welcome to submit: faculty, students (at any level), the general public, native speakers, non-native speakers. We can deal with just about any language—so spread the word among your friends and colleagues.

To submit a manuscript, or for more information about our journal, please contact

Diane Johnson, Editor, *The World's Muse*
(diane.johnson@wwu.edu)
Department of Modern and Classical Languages
Western Washington University
516 High Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-9057

Annual subscription (individual or institutional) is \$15.00. It is not necessary to subscribe in order to submit a manuscript.

Individuals whose work is published in the journal will receive a complimentary copy.

2006-2007

Tenured and Tenure-track Faculty

Brent Carbajal – Professor of Spanish, Dept. Chair
Masanori Deguchi – Assistant Prof. of Japanese/Ling.
Kendra Douglas – Assistant Prof. of Spanish/Ling.
Petra Fiero – Associate Prof. of German
Hugo García – Assistant Prof. of Spanish
Shaw Gynan – Professor of Spanish/Ling.
Vicki Hamblin – Professor of French
Cécile Hanania – Assistant Prof. of French
Joan Hoffman – Associate Prof. of Spanish
Diane Johnson – Assistant Prof. of Classics
Fallou Ngom – Assistant Prof. of French/Ling.
Edouard Ousselin – Associate Prof. of French
Paqui Paredes – Assistant Prof. of Spanish
Cornelius Partsch – Assistant Professor of German
Daniel Rangel-Guerrero – Associate Prof. of Spanish
Walter Suess – Associate Prof. of German
Massimiliano Tomasi – Associate Prof. of Japanese
Kathleen Tomlonovic – Professor of Chinese
John Underwood – Professor of Spanish, LMC Director
Edward Vajda – Professor of Russian/Ling.
Rudolf Weiss – Professor of German, Dir. Linguistics
Janet Xing – Prof. of Chinese/Ling.
Michiko Yusa – Professor of Japanese

Limited-term Faculty

Karen López Alonzo – Spanish
Amy Carbajal – Spanish
David Fiero – Spanish
Meredith Josey – French
Ingrid Kassler – German
Mary Ann Rangel – Spanish
Dwan Shipley – Linguistics
Hiromi Suzuki – Japanese
Annabelle Vergne-McHugh – French
Akihiko Watanabe – Classics
Ho-chin Yang – Chinese
Lily Yang – Chinese

Staff

Lisa Weed – Administrative Staff
Vicky Wolfe – Academic Support Staff



Lisa & Vicky

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 the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, MS-9057, Western Washington University, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

NAME _____ (FORMER NAME) _____

ADDRESS _____

YEAR GRADUATED FROM WWU _____ DEGREE IN _____

CURRENT OCCUPATION _____

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS/ACTIVITIES/INTERESTS:

TRAVELS:

MILESTONES (MARRIAGE, BIRTHS, ETC.):

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 Alumni Club to join. Please contact the WWU Alumni Office at 800-676-6885 or 650-3353.