

# Interlingua

Newsletter of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages

Number 9

Western Washington University

Spring 2003

## Letter from the Chair

As I sit down to draft this letter I realize that I don't have much in the way of "news" to tell you. Our faculty and students continue to be very active and productive, our programs are flourishing, and in many ways it's been a quiet year.

This, however, does not mean that it hasn't been an exciting time to be involved in the department. For example, again this year we've been busy in terms of recruitment, hiring for next year Dr. Cornelius Partsch in German. Profs. Petra Fiero, Massimiliano Tomasi, and Janet Xing will be on sabbatical next year, so we'll also be hiring for those one-year replacement positions. In terms of our instructional resources, we've made a number of upgrades in the Language Media Center as well as our two mediated classrooms. Faculty members have presented their scholarship at conferences around the world (Prof. Vicki Hamblin even spent Winter Quarter teaching in France), returning to Western with a wealth of cultural knowledge and valuable feedback on their research. As you'll read in other parts of this newsletter, our students and graduates have also been doing wonderful things, garnering a number of awards and accolades.

On a campus-level, our attention has been directed toward the division of the College of Arts and Sciences and the creation of two new units, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Science and Technology. Modern and Classical Languages, of course, will be part of the former, and we look forward to making the new College a dynamic and innovative one. A dean for the College will be named soon.

As we go forward with both our curricular and administrative planning, mention should be made here, I think, of the retirements of two

people who had a great deal to do with what we are today – Prof. Darrel Amundsen and Ms. Marilyn Lyon. Prof. Amundsen was Professor of Classics and Chair of this department for a number of years, and Ms. Lyon faithfully served us as Department Manager and all-around "question answerer." Both of these individuals worked here for more than thirty years. If I might be permitted the space here, I would like to express my personal appreciation to them; their advice, support, and friendship over the years has been more important to me than they might imagine.

Finally, I come to the part of my letter about which I feel least comfortable – the pitch. I'm not a salesman, so I'll simply say that in the current budgetary and economic crisis, your contributions to our programs are more important than ever. I invite you to contribute to our Foundation account and promise that your financial support of MCL is greatly appreciated and that Foundation funds will continue to be allocated to upgrade our Language Media Center, our classrooms, and to the purchase of other equipment or resources that might improve what we can offer our faculty and students.

Thank you very much, and enjoy this year's edition of *Interlingua*.

-Brent Carbajal

P.S. I would like to express the department's appreciation to those responsible for editing and putting this edition of *Interlingua* together: Paqui Paredes, Cecile Hanania, David Fiero, Walter Suess, Vicky Richardson and Lisa Lahmann.

### **Department Faculty 2002-2003**

#### 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 – Professor of French  
Cécile Hanania – Assistant Professor of French  
Joan Hoffman – Associate Professor of Spanish  
Fallou Ngom – Assistant Professor of French/Ling.  
Edouard Ousselin – Assistant Professor of French  
Paqui Paredes – Assistant Professor of Spanish  
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/Linguistics  
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 Kessler – German  
Cynthia McCurdy – Language Education  
Mary Ann Rangel – Spanish  
Dwan Shipley – Linguistics  
Hiromi Suzuki – Japanese  
Ho-Chin Yang – Chinese

### **Faculty News and Activities**

#### **Chinese –**

The Chinese language program highlighted faculty and student achievements during the annual closing events of the year held in conjunction with the student Calligraphy Exhibit on May 30. In preparation for the exhibit, Professor Ho-chin Yang invited professional calligrapher, Ms. Kathy Pak, to demonstrate various calligraphic styles. This year, the outstanding East Asian Studies graduate was a Chinese language student, Leann Luong, a participant in study abroad programs in China who has been selected for a Fulbright award for research in Vietnam among entrepreneurs of Chinese descent. Several students from Chinese and Japanese language classes participated in the Ninth Annual East Asian Studies Student

Symposium held in conjunction with Scholars Week. Megan Carlisle, Nate Porter, Thuy Nyugen and Sarai Stevens were recognized for creative projects and research.

Although the WWU in Kunming Program has been cancelled this year because of the situation with SARS in China, students are anticipating resumption of the program next year.

Faculty research includes participation in national and international events. Professor Janet Xing will be going to Beijing University to consult linguists there on the final version of her book entitled "Grammaticalization of Verbs in Mandarin Chinese" to be published by Europa Lincom, München, Germany. She will also begin to write a book entitled "Pedagogical Grammar of Chinese" contracted with the Hong Kong University Press.

Ho-chin Yang continues to teach Chinese language courses and to conduct his research on Tibetan themes. He has just completed a Chinese translation of the English text of The Snow Lion and the Dragon: China, Tibet, and the Dalai Lama by Melvin Goldstein.

Kathleen Tomlonovic, who teaches Chinese language and East Asian studies classes while serving as Director of EAS, spent several months concluding projects related to the Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (ASPAC) conference that she chaired in June 2002 on the WWU campus. More than 150 persons from the USA, China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan participated in 35 academic panels. By all accounts the event was very successful.

Continuing her research on medieval Chinese funerary texts and rituals, Kathleen Tomlonovic delivered a paper at the American Oriental Society meeting in Tucson, Arizona in October "Epitaphs and Burial Rituals for Chinese Women During the Song Dynasty (960--1297)."

#### **Classical Studies –**

A number of activities marked this year as particularly successful in promoting the Classical languages. In July 2002, three students accompanied Diane Johnson to the Conventiculum Latinum at the University of Kentucky in Lexington; Dr. Johnson will be taking three more students to Lexington in the summer of 2003. These internationally respected two-week Latin immersion programs provide students with valuable opportunities to communicate in Latin with speakers from many different parts of the world. Students at all levels of our Latin program have also benefited this

year from monthly "Commorationes Latinae," Latin field-days held in Seattle and Bellingham.

Dr. Johnson represented the department's Classical languages when the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association held its annual meeting at WWU this year. In addition, Dr. Johnson and Classics student Mary Jane Cuyler presented a reading of selections from the poetry of Ovid as part of the Library Reading Series in February of this year. Library holdings in Classics continue to grow, and we can celebrate two splendid new acquisitions: the premier volumes of the newly re-edited Pauly Wissowa, and the digital Library of Latin Texts, a superb collection of ancient, medieval and modern works opening up extensive new areas of research for our undergraduates.

It remains to report the serious loss to the Department in the retirement of the former chair of Modern and Classical Languages and head of the Classical Studies program, Professor Darrel Amundsen. Dr. Amundsen, who left at the end of Winter Quarter, will be sorely missed by both students and faculty. Not only an effective instructor and popular lecturer, he is one of the most widely published scholars in the University and a nationally known historian.

**French** - This academic year has been marked by two additions to the French faculty. Dr. Fallou Ngom and Dr. Cécile Hanania joined Dr. Vicki Hamblin and Dr. Edouard Ousselin as new tenure-track faculty. Dr. Ngom originates from Ziguinchor, Senegal. He brings to the French section his expertise in linguistics as well as his knowledge of sub-Saharan African cultures. Dr. Hanania, a native of Marseille, specializes in contemporary French and Francophone literatures and Literary Theory. The group enjoys working together, resulting in a fruitful collaboration. All four faculty members have been deeply involved in delivering a diverse curriculum to an unprecedented number of students, offering a wide variety of classes in French language, phonetics, culture, and literature while adding a new course (450) on French cinema created by Prof. Ousselin. Four new, exciting 400-level French courses now supplement the curriculum: French Cinema, French Sociolinguistics, History of French Language, Francophone Women's Literature. Prof. Abou Bai-Sheka joined the French section again this Winter to teach elementary French classes.

The French Section has also been very active in research. Two articles by Dr. Hamblin,

written as a follow-up to her critical edition of the Mistère du siège d'Orléans, were published in international journals specializing in medieval theater.

Dr. Ousselin's article "From le Moko to le Pew: Transmogrifications" was accepted by *The French Review*. He presented his research on Literary Construction of Europe at professional conferences at Ohio State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Ngom has initiated the invitation of guest speakers from Africa to the department. He also presented several papers dealing with interaction between African and non-African languages at professional conferences and, among other publications, had his book Wolof, released in April 2003.

Dr. Hanania traveled extensively to present her research on contemporary Francophone writers to several international conferences from Lyons (France) to Arizona and New Orleans. Three articles she wrote on Francophone women writers, Alina Reyes, Simone Schwarz-Bart and Marguerite Duras, have been accepted for publication and will appear in 2004.

**German** - This past year has been one of transition for the German section. But with the hire of a new faculty member for our section, this period of transition should come to an end. We hired a wonderful, dynamic scholar and teacher, Dr. Cornelius Partsch, who will join us in the fall. Dr. Partsch has already taught for several years in various universities and has most recently taught at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. He will bring a good deal of computer savvy to our section among many other positive qualities.

This year was most memorable in a positive sense for Dr. Petra Fiero who was accepted into the very prestigious national "Train-DaF [a leadership program in the field of German teaching]" program organized by AATG and the Goethe-Institut. As part of the program she has already participated in a seminar in Washington, D.C. and will attend a two-week seminar in Munich, Germany this summer. She also was awarded a sabbatical for the coming academic year and will use the time to interview Barbara Honigmann, a German-Jewish author, for a book-length publication.

Dr. Weiss started off the academic year with a quarter of medical leave, time which helped him tremendously to keep up with his busy schedule over the past two quarters. He still directs the Linguistics Program, which has

higher enrollment than ever, with a total of some eighty majors.

Frau Kassler remains the beloved soul of our lower-division courses. She just has embarked on a very exciting Internet project with our 203-level students.

Dr. Suess has taught a new course, *New Methods in Teaching German*, to stimulate more interest in students to pursue a teaching career. He also continued with his courses on German literature, culture and film that are cross-listed with the English department, opening up such courses to a wider audience. Dr. Suess was elected to serve as Vice-President for WAFLT (Washington Association for Language Teachers).

**Japanese** - The words that best describe the activities of the Japanese Section this past year are "busy" but "productive" and "fulfilling." Prof. Tomasi was busy preparing his manuscript and teaching a new course for the Honors Program. Ms. Hiromi Suzuki was busy getting used to her American experience and teaching in an English environment, and Prof. Yusa was busy learning about the works of Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988), and traveling in pursuit of the sculptures and gardens he designed.

In the fall the department advertised a new position, Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese, and after a nationwide search, Mr. Masanori Deguchi (A.B.D. in Linguistics, University of Indiana) accepted our offer. He will be joining us in September 2003.

The seventh annual Japan Week was extremely successful, and we would like to express appreciation to all event sponsors. This year's theme was "Celebrating Isamu Noguchi: Humanity beyond Nationalism and Cultural Parochialism," and it was co-chaired by Dr. Sarah Clark-Langager of the Western Gallery and Prof. Yusa.

In terms of scholarship, the Japanese faculty members have been very active. Michiko Yusa enjoyed learning about Isamu Noguchi and his art works as she prepared for this year's Japan Week, which necessitated a trip to New York and New Haven. For her bilingual essay on Noguchi visit our website: [www.wvu.edu/japanweek](http://www.wvu.edu/japanweek). Last summer she attended an international symposium on "The Lotus Sutra and Zen Buddhism" in Tokyo, which gave her the opportunity to work on Zen Master Dogen's writings. She continues to work on the Japanese philosopher Nishida Kitaro; she gave an invited talk to the graduate students and

faculty members of the Philosophy Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in March 2003. She sends her love to all those students who studied Japanese at Western.

Massimiliano Tomasi's book on the history of Western rhetoric in modern Japan has been accepted and will be published in 2004 by the University of Hawaii Press. This will be the first study ever to address the role of Western rhetoric in the formation of Japanese modern literary language. He has been awarded a sabbatical leave for academic year 2003-04, and he will be at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto, working on a proposed book manuscript on the life and thought of literary critic Shimamura Hogetsu (1871-1918).

**Russian** - During the 2002-03 academic year Edward Vajda submitted to press a number of articles and book chapters dealing with Ket, an isolated language spoken by a few hundred people in Central Siberia. In connection with this work, the department hosted Marina Kilina, a graduate student from Tomsk, Siberia, who received a Fulbright grant to work with Dr. Vajda on a dictionary of the Ket finite verb. The dictionary is nearing completion and will be published in Russia. Dr. Vajda also edited a special issue of the journal *Language Universals and Typology* and began work as editor of *Word*.

In fall 2002 the Russian Section received approval for a new minor in Eurasian Studies, which focuses on the origins and destinies of peoples and cultures located between Europe and East Asia. These include, among others, the Russian, Turks, Mongols, native peoples of Siberia and the Caucasus, as well as the Persian, Indo-Aryans, Arabs, and tribes of Afghanistan. Eurasian studies focuses mainly on the vast interior spaces of Europe and Asia - the all too poorly known hinterland out of which so much of world history and culture has emerged. The minor pulls together various types of information on this area into a cogent whole in a way that cannot be done through programs focused specifically on East Asia or Europe. Contributing courses involve language and cultural studies, as well as archeology, human ecology, anthropology, and history. This eclectic approach reveals the ancient origins (a topic all too often taken for granted) as well as the eventual destinies of the modern peoples of Eurasia.

**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. Paqui Paredes Méndez has joined the department as the latest addition to the Spanish section faculty. She is from Galicia, Spain, and holds a doctorate in Spanish literature from the University of Kansas. We are delighted that she chose to come to Western.

The Spanish section's instructional activity both in and outside of the classroom is varied and dynamic. John Underwood is using his latest book, this one on Spanish film, for an advanced conversation course. David Fiero will be offering a seminar on *Don Quijote* this coming winter quarter, made possible by the recent appearance of an unabridged edition of the "Quijote" tailored to the needs of undergraduate students. Amy Carbajal continues to be active in the Spanish Club, which takes place weekly at an espresso shop downtown. Mary Anne and Daniel Rangel-Guerrero will offer their intensive Spanish course again this summer. Lynn Day traveled to Chile in the winter quarter to visit her Chilean host family, with whom she has had a forty-year relationship.

The Spanish section travels extensively to keep in touch with current culture and to participate in academic gatherings. Brent Carbajal will be spending a month in Resistencia, Argentina this summer participating in the literature seminar "Literatura argentina en la Argentina" which includes a trip to Paraguay, where he may meet Augusto Roa Bastos, author of the novels about which Brent wrote his dissertation. Paqui Paredes will be teaching for the University of Kansas summer institute in Barcelona in the month of July. In August, she will be doing research regarding film and gender in Madrid. David Fiero recently returned from a trip to Spain. Shaw Gynan will be in Paraguay this summer to teach for Ohio State University.

The Spanish section has been active in scholarship and creative endeavors. Daniel Rangel-Guerrero received a Certificate of Recognition for his 15 years of contributions to ABC-CLIO, publisher of *Historical Abstracts* and *America: History and Life*. Daniel also edits the *Journal of Latin American Lore*. Joan Hoffman, our foreign studies advisor, has published recently on Emilia Pardo Bazán in the *Enciclopedia feminista* and the *Hispanic Journal*. Joan is also on the editorial board of MELUS. Paqui Paredes is working on a literary anthology for fifth semester students of Spanish. It will be published by Heinle and Heinle under

the title *Voces de España*. Shaw Gynan, Spanish section coordinator, recently completed a second Fulbright Senior Scholar award in Paraguay and has published two books and a number of articles based on his research there.

Former Spanish students have made a splash, too. Liz Goodin, for example, will be studying for her doctorate at UCLA. Carlos Nye was accepted in the Spanish doctoral program at Penn State. Lisa Phillips is working for the federal government in Washington, DC. Heidi Grevsted is in graduate school at Temple University. We love to hear from you about progress in your career. It helps us to advise current students on opportunities. So, be sure to drop one of us an e-mail to keep in touch.

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

### **Report from France**

*Prof. Vicki Hamblin spent winter quarter as a member of the AHA International's study-abroad program in Angers, France and files the following report:*

During the winter quarter 2003, I was the visiting faculty member in AHA International's study-abroad program in Angers, France. Twenty-three students from northwestern universities were enrolled in this program at the Université Catholique de l'Ouest. As such, students enroll in some 20 hours of classes a week, are boarded with French families, and participate in cultural excursions organized by the program's resident director. The AHA students represent only a small percentage of the 600 international students who are currently studying French language and culture in Angers. This detail was especially significant this winter because, in addition to learning how to live in France among the French and among a large population of international students, our students had to learn how to deal with a complex political situation that involved their home country. Many of the international students came from countries that, officially, at least, supported neither the American government's position nor its actions in invading Iraq. Chinese, Japanese, Iranian, Iraqi, Columbian, Italian and Russian students all joined the local French population to protest America's actions. For American students, whether they were philosophically opposed to the war, or instead supported it because their

brothers and cousins were fighting that war, their presence in Europe during these events was both immensely frustrating, because they felt so far removed from actions being taken in their name in the US, and, at the same time, incredibly enlightening because they were witnessing history from an international perspective. Their reactions were mixed, of course, but never indifferent. Seeing how the world reacts to US actions was, I suspect, an experience that they will never forget. I myself feel privileged to have shared in that experience.

### **New Faculty Comment**

Although the transition from a graduate student life to that of a junior faculty is not always easy, let alone being a father for the first time, mine has been relatively easy thanks to the support of the entire faculty body and staff of the department. In addition, the collegial environment of the department and the presence of various active scholars with broad research interests (ranging from (socio) linguistics, literature, culture and art, to classical languages) have made the department particularly appealing to me (and I am sure to all new faculty members). The currently positive environment in the department and the support and guidance of the chair and senior faculty members with whom we directly work have convinced me that the department is a place conducive to teaching, research and professional development and growth. *Fallou Ngom*

### **The Language Media Center**

by John Underwood

The new name for what began in 1963 as the Language Laboratory reflects its evolutionary--at times revolutionary--changes over the past forty years. Some may remember the first lab, in Humanities 242: rows of booths separated by glass panels with reel-to-reel tapes and headphones.

In 1999 the department was awarded a grant to install the present Language Media Center as part of capital funds secured for rebuilding and refurbishing Haggard Hall. The new facility in Haggard Hall 113 and 114 is equipped with:

- 28 iMacs (with CD-audio and CD-ROM players)
- 20 Mac PowerPC G3s (with CD-ROM and DVD players)

- 5 Gateway Windows machines
- one 36" and one 26" monitor, both equipped with VHS/DVD players for small-group viewing
- 15 VCRs with 13" monitors
- a high-resolution projector with surround sound audio for the projection and/or audio playback of a variety of media
- digital and analog cameras and camcorders for use by faculty and students

Prof. Robert Balas (French) served as director of the new facility from 1999 to 2001. Prof. John Underwood (Spanish) is currently director.

#### *Recent projects of the Center*

- The LMC website <http://lmc.wvu.edu> features an online searchable media catalog for all languages taught, along with features such as NEWS, which showcases newly-acquired or special media. To see the list of films available for a particular language, click the language name, then click on "Browse." For more on the evolution of the "lab" over the last forty years, click on HISTORY.

- In winter quarter 2003 the Center initiated a live satellite feed from French television, TV5. The addition of other languages/countries is currently under study. Meanwhile, the International Channel continues to be accessible throughout the Center.

### **Scholarships and Awards**

We would like to announce and congratulate the recipients of the departmental scholarships awarded for 2003-04:

#### Tuition and Fee Waiver

Meagan Evans – Spanish  
Kelly Neeley – French/English

#### Loomis/Hanley Scholarship:

Melanie Sweder – German

#### Herbert L. Baird, Jr. Scholarship:

Melanie Slaggle – Spanish

Eunice D. Faber Scholarship:

Megan Riddle – Spanish

Outstanding Graduate

Nathan Magnusson - German

**Alumni News**

**Sheila DeTurk, 1976** – International education exchange partnerships and programs. Joined CASE in April 2002 after 8 years with the school of Foreign Service, Georgetown University.

**Matthew Freeman, 1996** - High school Spanish teacher in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Heather Haren, 1998** – Spanish degree at WWU and is now a Buyer/Customs Specialist at Pacific Coast Feather Company in Seattle.

**Holly Harnaer, 1992** – Lived in Spain for three years. Is now a Spanish teacher and ESL instructor.

**Lisa Link, 1986** – She is a research assistant and lecturer for technical translation and applied computer linguistics in the Dept. of Technical Translation at Flensburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany.

**James Lockman, 1980** – Currently finishing administrative certification at WWU and teaches Spanish at Everett High School in Everett, WA.

**Nathaniel Miles, 1995** – Taught EFL at the Universidad del Mar from 1997-1999 and is now living in Seattle working in a psychiatric hospital.

**Erin Recke, 1997** – Erin earned a Spanish degree and is now an Intraoperative Autotransfusionist and a commercial pilot in training.

**Renee Riedel, 1986** – French Associate Professor at Arizona Community College and high school French teacher. She received her M.A. in TESOL in 1992.

**Rachael Robbins, 1996** – Rachael earned a major in Spanish and a minor in French. She is now studying at Hebrew Union College so she can become a rabbi.

**Shannon Salinas, 1987** – She has a major in Spanish and a minor in Latin American Studies. She serves the Spanish-speaking community working at the Seattle Housing Authority.

**Eric Turner, 1993** – Embedded software engineer at The Boeing Company, Space and Communications. Eric earned a B.A. in Spanish.

**Shelley Winder-Yost, 1988** – Shelley earned her Master's Degree of Curriculum and Instruction/Spanish and is now a teacher of Spanish at Northwest Yeshiva High School on Mercer Island and an Apex/Power-Glide online Spanish instructor.

**Alyssa Lonner, 1993** – Alyssa earned her Ph.D in German at Washington University in St. Louis, and will be Assistant Professor of German at Wake Forest University starting next year.

**Anita O'Ferrall, 1983** – She is a bilingual 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Spanish teacher in Grand Prairie, Texas and earned an award for Outstanding Contributions to Education.

**Katherine Self, 1999** – Katherine is a bilingual 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She also is a volunteer teacher for Spanish-speaking adults who want to learn English.

**Judd Baker, 2000** – Earned his degree in Spanish and French. He is now a para-professional ESL teacher in Touchet, WA.

**A Student's Perspective**

When I asked Mr. Nathan Magnusson to write a little contribution for “Interlingua” about his experience during his internship at the Goethe Institut Boston, I knew very well that he would be very unwilling to do so. The reason for this is not that he shies away from work, quite the opposite: he is hesitant to write about himself. He always feels that his accomplishments are not worthy of mentioning, and therefore has a tendency to trivialize and belittle his academic achievements. Let me correct that image to some extent: Mr. Magnusson started with German 101 here at Western only three and a half years ago and received his BA in German after the Fall quarter 2003 with practically a straight 4.0 grade point average. That alone is an incredible feat for anyone, but what sets Mr. Magnusson apart from

the other fortunate students of such academic caliber is the fact that his knowledge of German language, literature and culture are of such a high caliber that it is easy to mistake him for a native German speaker. And it is precisely for that reason that Mr. Magnusson is presently participating in this internship at the German cultural institute in Boston, where every other intern until now was a German and not an American like Mr. Magnusson. Mr. Magnusson is a shining example for all our students of what can be achieved if you give all of yourself in the pursuit of excellence.

*I don't remember exactly how I came up with the idea to pursue an internship at the Goethe-Institut. I do remember that the thought surfaced in the summer of 2002, after I had returned from a year in Germany. An internship in Boston—I had never been to the East Coast before—and the chance to do something with my impending degree seemed appealing. After checking out the G.I. web page I applied for the position and to my surprise, I landed a spot for the summer term, which meant I would be traveling to New England in the spring. My last semester at Western followed and I graduated in December.*

*My fall courses included a seminar in teaching methods as well as preparation for the Prüfung Wirtschaftsdeutsch International, an internationally recognized business German exam. These classes, in addition to my Western experience and my travel to Germany prepared me for my duties as well as can be expected.*

*My first week of work has passed and I'm beginning to form a decent impression of what my responsibilities at the institute will entail. Because of my profound interest in the field of teaching, I was placed in the language program, where I will sit in on classes, observe and help the students in any way I can. My other duties include updating the Institute's webpage for their literature discussions, sending out e-mails to families with children interested in attending readings of German fairy tales, and the design and distribution of posters and flyers for language classes and events. The first week was quite busy, as I was also recruited to transcribe an interview about German-American relations after the war against Iraq. Although they are not directly involved with language department, I*

*also help out with the many events that the Goethe-Institut sponsors.*

*I suppose it is also necessary to discuss my expectations for my time as an intern. I believe it will give me important job experience in a field that is related to my studies. My experience will also give me a chance to freshen up my language skills and bring them to a level which is adequate for the work world. The cultural component of my work at the Institute is also important to me. It's an excellent opportunity to be engaged in many aspects of the language and culture that convinced me to pursue German in the first place.*

Nathan Magnusson  
Class of 2003

### **The World's Muse**

The premier edition of our department's new creative writing journal, *The World's Muse*, appeared in print this April. Featuring fourteen authors and poems, short stories, and essays in six languages, our journal provides a really unique venue for all of us who have taken our language skills to another level of performance. In addition to pieces by featured authors, the journal also provides a forum for the discussion of issues relating to the teaching of creative writing in non-English languages, and its reception in the community at large.

We encourage all students, scholars, MCL-alumni, and lovers of world languages to submit their work for publication in upcoming issues to the editor, Diane Louise Johnson, at the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Western Washington University, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225. Materials can also be submitted electronically to [Diane.Johnson@wwu.edu](mailto:Diane.Johnson@wwu.edu).

For more information, and to sample some of the work featured in the Spring 2003 edition, we have a new website, created by John Underwood and available at this web-address: <http://www.lmc.wwu.edu/muse>.

Annual subscriptions to *The World's Muse* are \$15.00 for two issues (Spring and Autumn), and can be made by writing to the editor at the above address.



## 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 Vicky Richardson, Dept. of Modern and Classical Languages, MS-9057, Western Washington University, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225, or by e-mailing us at [Vicky.Richardson@wwu.edu](mailto:Vicky.Richardson@wwu.edu).

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