

Foreign Language News

**Department of Foreign Languages
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Dear alumni and friends,

I have started writing this letter many times over the past few weeks but have never finished it not out of my usual penchant for procrastination but because of the sense of melancholy that has settled over me each time that I have begun. This year has been a difficult though by no means an unproductive one. If you follow the news at all, you know that public universities across the nation have been hit with difficult times, and Eastern has been no different. It is at best an old story involving the usual archetypes of political and societal distractions on both national and state levels - events that draw everyone's attention away from the clear values and diverse elements of our mission. More and more we are asked to provide the services, training and education that our students deserve and need, but with fewer and fewer resources. That, at any rate, is the challenge, and one that we have met, though not without difficulty. In a lot of ways, our department has fared far better than some: we have not had to reduce course offering, we are all still busy and employed, through your generosity we were still able to award a significant number of scholarships including our usual Study Abroad Scholarships. For the most part, things have gone on as usual though without some frills.

In the end, the fiscal difficulties of the past year amount to little more than the lumps, bumps and aggravations of a challenging season. Such things pale in the face of a much greater and far sadder loss our department has suffered. Last October Luis Clay Méndez passed away unexpectedly and left an emptiness in our community that still chills me when I think on it. When I came to Eastern in 1992, Luis became a presence and a force in my own professional development, an example of a senior faculty member whose energy and comportment served to guide my own efforts. When I became

Reflections on a Respected Colleague

department chair, Luis played a similar role in my learning to administer the department. He unerringly spoke his mind on more issues than I can count. He always made me feel that I was doing a good job and never hesitated to let me know when my choices ran the risk of going awry. He and I had many conversations about teaching standards, the direction policies and programs ought to take, the role our department should play in the greater university community, and on and on and on. His commitment to professional issues and his passion for what he did for a living - or rather as a living - were mainstays in our department, and as a colleague he provided an energy that will never be replaced.

His energy and vitality were even more evident in his teaching, which is fitting since first and always Luis was a teacher. He was a demanding professor as many of you will remember. But he also offered his students something that could be had in no other course. The exceptional enthusiasm Professor Clay brought to the classroom imbued the language, literature and culture that he taught with a vibrancy and life that came from personal experience and professional commitment. We will cover classes and alter schedules and begin the arduous task of searching, but Luis Clay Méndez will never be replaced. He has passed on and left much behind. In many ways our department is what it is because Luis was a part of it for so long. In still other ways -- some subtle, some not -- he will always be a part of what we are and what we do and what we will become. I miss Luis a great deal and am glad to have known him and to have had the privilege of working with him. I hope you will take a moment to remember him and to hold him in your hearts and minds.

-Stephen Canfield, Chair

In November, my wife and I are taking a group of 20

students on a study trip to Cuba. As I am preparing for a lecture on the Cuban beliefs in the living traditions of "Santería," as part of the classes we have to teach before departure, the image of the white dove in the Santería religion keeps reappearing. As a symbol of the "Orishas" (gods) of creation, the dove signifies peace and the human spirit's ascent into the heavens after death. That reminds me of the beautiful ceremony following the funeral service of **Dr. Luis Clay Méndez** on October 7, at the Catholic Newman Church.

Luis had come to the States as a Cuban refugee-immigrant at the age of 17, obtained a Ph.D. from Washinton University, and started his career in Spanish at EIU in 1980. I had the privilege of working with him for 12 years. He was one of the most dedicated colleagues I dealt with in my 37 years in higher education. Luis was first of all a man of principles-- not a flag blown by the wind in every so many directions-- even to the point of irritating me at times as his department Chair. Open and frank expression would, however, work to benefit the department because it always resulted in peaceful compromises.

Luis adhered to the highest academic standards. The most frequent comment I heard from students was that he demanded 110% of them. One student put it very bluntly when he stated: "He worked my ass off, but I learned so much in his class." Students stated that he never came unprepared, which one alumna cites as the reason for her having developed "a tremendous work ethic."

His principles and high standards in the classroom were, however, balanced with his ever-so-pleasant humor as he lectured. I enjoyed that humor whenever I visited his classes for purposes of evaluation. His immigration stories in the department's senior seminar were most intriguing and amusing.

His sense of humor leads me to an aspect of his character which was not well known, except by his wonderful wife Penny. Rigorous standards tended to cover a warm and most emotional heart. He once took me for a ride on his antique boat on Lake Shelbyville. He actually let me steer the boat, which had become his pride. Evening came and we observed a most beautiful sunset. He cut the engine, and after a while he stated: "No poem could ever do justice to what I feel at a moment like this." I noticed two tears in his eyes, the eyes of a person with unbending principles and rigorous standards.

A message from Penny Clay

I would like to thank our many friends, students and colleagues for your loving support in such a difficult time. Your prayers, cards, notes, calls, e-mails and expressions

Luis, you are now beyond the sunset. Send that peace dove back for Cuba and the U.S.

October, 2003

Heribert Breidenbach

Professor emeritus of German and Latin

With the death of Dr. Luis Felipe Clay Méndez, students and faculty at Eastern Illinois University lost an unforgettable friend and colleague. Dr. Clay was an internationally known expert on the Cuban poet Julián del Casal, about whom he published numerous articles and books. At the time of his death he was working on an article about the most recent novel of Isabel Allende, *The City of the Beasts*.

At Eastern Illinois University, he was a beloved professor, known for his strict and demanding standards. Several generations of students benefitted from his stimulating courses on the Hispanic Short Story, Modern Spanish American Literature and Early Spanish American Literature. Dr. Clay was the leader of the Spanish section of the Foreign Languages Department. He set high standards for both students and professors and provided vision and wisdom. His beautiful house was always open to students and friends, especially for such special events as the annual initiation ceremony for the Spanish honorary society Sigma Delta Pi. His house was like a museum, full of the art objects that he collected on his world travels. Dr. Clay was famous for the extra-curricular activities that he organized for students, including a piñata-making contest, a carnival mask contest and an international cooking contest. He was an enthusiastic participant in Latino Heritage Month celebration and was always the master of ceremonies for the Latino Heritage Banquet. Luis Clay was a special friend to students and professors. His wit and charm were infectious and he almost always had a smile on his face. He would always notice if someone did something well, and a compliment from him would light up your day. In April of 2003 he was chosen to be Eastern Illinois University's distinguished professor and was honored at graduation. This was a fitting prize to cap an illustrious career. Dr. Clay devoted twenty-three years of his life to Eastern Illinois University and was known to almost everyone on campus. I feel lucky to have shared twelve years of friendship and professional collaboration with him. I will remember him always.

Dr. Karen Taylor

of sympathy have been a source of strength and joy. I am in awe of the eloquence with which some of you expressed your feelings for Luis and I am so grateful to those of you who shared your memories of him with me. I

never tire of reading or hearing your reminiscences and I see that you are missing Luis and grieving his death along with me. So many of you have come to me to offer help with all the tasks that must continue that it is impossible to express my gratitude adequately for your outpouring of generosity. I can only say that your love, concern and acts of kindness are appreciated and have strengthened and comforted our family and me in this time of devastating loss.

Penny Clay

Clay Named Distinguished Faculty

Dr. Luis Felipe Clay Méndez was named 2003 recipient of EIU's Distinguished Faculty Award, which he received at graduation on May 10, 2003. This award is presented to faculty who excel in teaching, professional research/creative activity and service. "After 23 years of joyful employment at EIU, the award was possibly the best of a series of pleasant memories of my teaching at this institution," Clay Méndez said. "I am grateful for the way God has guided my way to this country and this profession. It is very gratifying to be recognized for work that one loves to do," he added. Dr. Clay Méndez was also granted the Achievement and Contribution Award posthumously for his many contributions to the university, the community and his country.

Luis Clay-Mendez Scholarship Fund

In memory of **Luis Clay Méndez**, **Penny Clay** has decided to establish a scholarship in his name for Spanish students. This scholarship will be endowed through the EIU Foundation. In order to accomplish this goal, we need to raise a minimum of \$5000. An account has been established with the EIU Foundation to hold donations as they are received. When the necessary amount has been raised, the Scholarship will be formally established and will remain in force in perpetuity. Please consider donating to this fund. Already we are more than half way to our goal. Donations may be sent directly to the Department of Foreign Languages or to the EIU Foundation. Checks should be made out to Eastern Illinois University. Please state clearly on your check or in a letter that your donation is for the Luis Clay Méndez Scholarship Fund.

In Memoriam

In addition to the untimely passing of our colleague, Luis Clay Méndez, Eastern suffered another devastating loss with the death of **Johnetta Jones**, who passed away on October 11. Johnetta was Director of Minority Affairs and ☞ **Alex Berry** (FR, '03) has begun her MA in French at Illinois State University, where she is working as a teaching assistant.

☞ **Kevin Gillgan** (FR, '02) sends this news: I got a job with U.S. Customs and I moved to San Francisco in June. For all those who haven't heard, I had been working as a

Director of the Gateway Program, and had been an active presence at Eastern for 26 years. She was formerly Director of the African-American Studies program.

New Alums

The department wishes to congratulate the following students who graduated in the spring of 2003:

Katie Agles (SP, Cum Laude); **Jill Andrys** (SP), **Angelica Baumann** (SP), **Alexis Berry** (FR, Magna Cum Laude), **François Extrada** (SP), **Katy Gilbert** (FR, Summa Cum Laude), **Joshua Leege** (Music major, Minor in SP), **José Ochoa** (SP), **Maika Turner** (SP) **Mike Walsh** (SP).

Alumni News

☞ **Katy (Gilbert) Frankie** (FR, '03) sends us news:

In May, I was hired to teach French and English at Oakwood High School (about 10 miles west of Danville). After graduation in May, I got married on July 12 to my high school sweetheart, Matt Frankie. He also graduated from EIU in May with a biology major, chemistry minor. He is continuing school to get his teaching certificate. I am the entire French program at OHS, teaching French I, French II, and Advanced French (a combination of French III and French IV students). I also teach 2 sophomore English classes. At this point, I'm glad that I went into teaching, but I hope it gets easier! I've been very, very busy creating lessons and finding ways to incorporate all of the Illinois Learning Standards in the classroom. I'm also helping with many of the different clubs and student organizations at the school. I've had to adjust to many new things this year: a new marriage, a new home, a new school and town...the list continues. Though I'm almost always tired and have a list a mile long of things to do, I'm really enjoying myself. The upcoming Christmas break is like the light at the end of the tunnel! My students are excellent; they are full of energy (some days too much), and they bring lots of laughter to my life. ☞ **Dan Johnson** (SP, '94) succeeded in passing all of his Foreign Service exams as well as appropriate levels of oral interviews, and on November 6, was told to report to Washington DC on January 12, 2004 for training.

☞ **Brent Cole** (History/ French majors, German minor, '96) will be doing graduate work at the Université Laval in Canada beginning in January 2004.

substitute teacher with the Chicago Public Schools since October 2002 while looking for another job. I graduated from Eastern last May with a BA in foreign languages and am planning on getting an MBA in International Business after I save some money. I applied to Customs last May and have also taken the placement test for the Foreign

Service. ☞ **Jennifer Shonk** (FR, '01) has gloriously completed her first year at the University of Colorado in the MA program in French. She also spent a pretty good stint traveling in France over last summer. She should tell everyone about her kayaking adventure! ☞ This from **Thomas Bean** (AIS major, FR minor, '99): I recently moved from the St. Louis Metro East area in Illinois over to St. Louis city proper. I am renting a home here with my longtime pal/roommate Alison in the "Dogtown" area of St. Louis.

The new place is a much shorter drive for me to work. I am still working as a computer programmer/analyst for CPI Corporation (Sears Portrait Studios) in downtown Saint Louis. My work keeps me very busy, but I find it both enjoyable and rewarding. I get to travel every now and then, although not as much as I'd like. I was recently able to attend a software conference out in San Francisco, which was a blast. I also visited both Las Vegas and Los Angeles for the first time earlier this year while on vacation helping a friend move out to CA. Although it would have been more enjoyable if I'd had more time and money to spend, I was able to do some sightseeing at places like the Hoover Dam (near Las Vegas) and the Queen Mary ship (near Los Angeles), in addition to hitting a few of the casinos in Vegas. I also saw a lot of beautiful (if desolate) landscapes driving across the country. I'm both dreading and looking forward to attending my 10-year high school reunion this weekend. I'm dreading having to face the fact that an entire decade has passed and we don't have much time left in our twenties... it certainly doesn't seem like that much time has gone by. I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and acquaintances, and finding out what paths their lives have taken these past ten years. ☞ **Susan Odenkirk** (FR, '99) is working on her Master's in International's Studies at DePaul University. ☞ **Jessica Cartledge** (Speech major, SP minor, '02) is doing her Master's in Education for Spanish/ Master's in Spanish at UIC.

Student news

■ Several of our Spanish students spent time abroad last semester and/or last summer to polish their language skills. Their improved levels of fluency after their return allow us to maintain higher standards in our upper division courses. These students both challenge their classmates

Venez Parlez Français!

The **French Table**, an informal conversational hour, meets Thursday at noon in the MLK Student Union, across from the bookstore. The Table is open to anyone interested in speaking French in a relaxed atmosphere, and we encourage former students to join us. If you would like to participate, bring your lunch at noon on Tuesday and join us for conversation and an occasional French game. Venez nous rejoindre!

Foreign Languages Week

to demand more of themselves and inspire them to go abroad themselves. **Corona Lawrence** and **Aleksandra Kryza** spent the spring 2003 semester in Salamanca, Spain. **Justin Cummins** studied at the University of the Basque Country in Spain in the spring of 2003. **Brad Hoffmire** and **Amy Harrington** spent the summer in Salamanca. **Kristen Skalon**, an elementary education major with a concentration in Spanish, decided right before student teaching that now was the time to study abroad, and also spent the summer in Salamanca. **Lauren Keppler** completed an internship in Palenque, Mexico, where she worked at the reception desk of a resort hotel, and is currently doing her student teaching in Merida, Mexico. **Matthew Jones** is spending the fall semester of 2003 at the University of Salamanca, Spain. ■ **Blake Johnson** (GR/SP) spent the academic year 2002-2003 studying at the University of Cologne in Germany. ■ The former **Holly Wright** (SP) married **Josh Grant** in June of 2003. ■ **Nina Grant** (SP) had a baby, Ethan, during the summer of 2003.

Award Winners

Thanks in part to alumni donations, we were able to award scholarship money to the following very deserving students in the spring of 2003:

***Ruth Carman Scholarship:** Lauren Keppler (SP);

***Bobbi King Memorial Scholarship:** Lauren Keppler (SP), Michelle Leisten (SP), Elizabeth Morgan (SP), Cassie Taylor (SP);

***Richard Crouse Memorial Scholarship:** Kristin Mauger (SP), Elizabeth Morgan (SP).

Amy Harrington (SP) was awarded a departmental study-abroad award of \$500, which came directly from funds contributed by you--our alumni and friends of the department--over the past few years. She used the award to help pay for study at the University of Salamanca, Spain, during the summer, and also visited Madrid.

During Foreign Languages Week in March, 2003, the Foreign Languages Department held an International Cooking Contest under the auspices of **Dr. Luis Clay**. Students from all levels of Spanish submitted recipes in Spanish. There were also submissions in French. The judges were **Pam Ortega**, librarian; **Isabel Castro**, advisor in the Office of Minority Affairs; and **Kristin Routt**, Foreign Languages professor. The winners were **Alex Berry** in French for her recipe "Crêpes", and in Spanish: First Prize, **Michelle Bokios**, Ensalada de calamares; Second Prize, **Jamie Gersch** for Antojitos; Third Prize, **Holly Wright** for Tofu Guacamole; Fourth Prize,

Michelle Leisten, Arroz con piña; fifth Prize, **Lori Fleming**, Paella; and sixth Prize, **Jennifer Bryant**, Tamales Dulces. The winners won gift certificates from WalMart. **Latino Heritage Month**

In September and October, the campus community again enjoyed the events of the annual Latino Heritage Celebration. This year, the month-long event included activities such as a Hispanic movie series, presentations on topics such as Rio de Janeiro and Chilean author Isabel Allende, and even flamenco dance lessons. As in past years, the culminating event was the Latino Heritage Banquet held on October 4 at the Union, where the Union catering service treated diners to authentic Latin American cuisine. We applaud the efforts of Isabel Castro from Minority Affairs and the members of the Latino Heritage Celebration organizing committee, which she heads. **Carlos Amaya**, **Luis Clay** and **Kristin Routt** represent the department on this committee. The Celebration provides many opportunities for students and community members to participate in the fastest-growing culture in the United States.

Dr. Clay participated in a panel titled "The Best of Two Worlds: Being Latino in the U.S.A." on September 22, at the Newman Center. He also gave an introduction to the movie "Woman on Top" and Santería on September 29.

Dr. Karen Taylor presented a lecture titled "Isabel Allende: Amazon Adventure," which included video clips of Isabel Allende and also of the Brazilian Rain Forest from the movie *The Burning Season*. The lecture was about Allende's most recent novel, *The City of the Beasts*, which is an action adventure story for a young audience (ages 10-18). This presentation was related to a course that Dr. Taylor teaches, "Women Writers of Spain and Latin America". **MALAS conference at EIU**

On November 6-8, Eastern Illinois University hosted the 53rd annual conference of the Midwest Association of Latin American Studies (MALAS). Approximately 100 scholars, diplomats and social activists attended this regional, multi-disciplinary conference. **Carlos Amaya**, **Kristin Routt** and **Karen Taylor** from the department I am truly excited to tell you about a project in the offing for this coming summer. I have joined forces with **Professor Jan Marquardt** of the Department of Art to offer a 6-semester- hour study abroad program in Paris from July 1-31. We will be working with a group comprised of both lower and upper division EIU students as well as French teachers from across Illinois. The program will consist of two segments. Professor Marquardt will be teaching a course in English entitled **Creating the Modern City, Art and Culture in Paris 1830-1930** which will involve studying art within the context of the time in which it was produced and collected in Paris between 1830 and 1930 as well as literature and works from the past which inspired and influenced the artists. The students will meet for class three days a week and spend the other days doing field work in museums

presented papers. Keynote speakers included Gene E. Bigler from the Department of Homeland Security and Isaac Cohen from the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to providing a forum for students and scholars to present their research, the MALAS conference also provides positive visibility to the university and to our Latin American Studies program.

Archeology Dig in Belgium

Pratiquez le français tout en fouillant un château fort en Belgique! This summer, you can earn EIU credit, spend a month working alongside native French-speaking Belgian students of college age, and work on the excavation of a medieval castle. This unique program, based at the *Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL)*, is directed by EIU History Professor **Bailey Young** in collaboration with Professor Raymond Brulet who directs the UCL *Centre de Recherches Archéologiques Nationales*. The dates are July 5-31, 2004. Students are comfortably lodged in single or double rooms at the university, and all meals are covered while in Louvain. Weekends are mostly free, and it is easy to travel by train to Brussels (about 40 minutes) and from there to such destinations as Paris, Amsterdam, Cologne or London. To visit the site of UCL and of the Walhain Castle excavations on the web, please go to Honors Programs on the EIU site, and click on Study Abroad. Contact Professor Young -- cfbky@eiu.edu-- for more information.

Mexico trip

Carlos Amaya will be leading the Spring Break México Trip in 2004. The trip will take place on March 11-21, 2004. We will go from Indianapolis or Chicago into Mérida. From there we will visit Chichen Itza, Tulum and Palenque. We will also see some cenotes and the beach.

Paris Summer 2004

and visiting various monuments and architectural sites in and around Paris including a day at Giverny, Claude Monet's estate.

I will be offering a sort of value-added French program. So far the people who have committed themselves to participate fall into two categories as far as French proficiency goes – those who by virtue of their college studies or professional experience are at an intermediate to advanced level and those who have had no French at all. The advanced students will be working on independent study projects inspired by personal interest or professional need. For the others, I have created a special intensive section of first semester French that will meet during the Spring 2004 semester. We will then continue with an intensive version of French 1102 while in

Paris. I like to think of it as second semester French with all of Paris as a language lab. There are still places open for the program and anyone is invited to enroll. If you are interested, drop me a line or give me a call. I would be delighted to send you more detailed information.

Stephen Canfield
cfsac@eiu.edu

Faculty and Staff News

Several faculty members and students participated in the annual Globalfest celebration in Urbana Illinois in March. **Shelley French** and **Lauren Keppler** provided four sessions of novice Latin. Participants learned animal names and sounds, Latin phrases used as mottos, and famous Latin quotations and who said them. **Steve Canfield** manned an information table.

Carlos Amaya and **Lillian Barria** (Political Science) returned in July from a month-long vocational study exchange visit to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, sponsored by the Rotary Foundation. The group (Group Study Exchange: GSE) had the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences with professionals from Rio. Participants visited Hospitals, Universities, Factories and Schools and also had time to do some tourism. They went to the Christ Statue (Corcovado), Pao de Acucar and the Tijuca Forest (the biggest urban natural preserve in the world), and also did some white water rafting and sun bathing on the Copacabana and Tijuca Beaches.

Karl Konrad, current Inbound coordinator for Group Study Exchanges in Rotary District 6490 assisted both Drs. Amaya Barria with their applications and is in charge of the visit by a delegation of young professionals from Brazil to East Central Illinois.

Carlos Amaya, **Kristin Routt** and their daughter Sophia went on a trip to Spain, where they visited Madrid, Toledo and Granada. In Madrid, they went to El Prado Museum, Museum of the Reina Sophia, and El Retiro

Don Sundheim finished his 35th year of teaching at Eastern last year and can't quite believe it. He says it seems like yesterday that he was moving into a new 2nd phase of Coleman Hall in the fall of 1968. There is, however, one certain advantage, Don says (with a smile): "All my colleagues from '68 are retired or dead so there's no more peer pressure." Sundheim was honored for his "Excellence in the Use of Technology" this past fall at Eastern's 1st Annual Technology Day. Don was one of four from the College of Arts & Humanities and one of sixteen from the University to be recognized. Sundheim was chosen for his work in creating the Foreign Language Department's multimedia computer lab in 1992, serving as its director for 8 years; and receiving a half dozen grants totaling over \$30,000 in the past 4 years. Don is currently

Park. In Toledo, they had the opportunity to see the Cathedral as well as numerous churches, synagogues and other historical sites. The final leg of their trip was Granada, where they visited the famous Alhambra, the Generalife retreat, and the House of Federico García Lorca.

Carlos Amaya read a paper titled "Historia circular e identidad mexicana en *Todos los gatos son pardos*" at the the Fifth Conference on Latin American Theatre, April 2-5, 2003, at the University of Kansas. He also had an article ("Confluencia de dos culturas: la identidad mexicana como propuestas dramática en El robo del penacho de Moctezuma de Guillermo Schmidhuber de la Mora") published in the Spring 2003 issue of the *Revista de Humanidades del Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey*.

Dr. Clay Méndez received a special commendation, citation and medal from Admiral Duncan Smith, USCG, citing his contributions of time and effort in teaching Spanish to the men and women of the United States Coast Guard (USCG). The ceremony was held in Ft. Smith, AR on Saturday, March 15, 2003, at the District Spring Conference of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Dr. Clay was also the featured speaker at that conference, where he gave a PowerPoint presentation on his experiences while teaching Spanish to the USCG.

Dr. Clay Méndez and **Penelope Clay** co-presented a workshop on Risk Management for the Eighth Western Rivers Region of the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Peoria, Illinois on September 18 & 21. Dr. Clay also was the featured speaker at the Vice-Commodore's luncheon in September

very busy teaching as well as creating more on-line, Internet-only courses.

Pam Sundheim (with Don tagging along) is planning another trip abroad for her Mattoon High School students. The Sundheims and approximately twenty students will be traveling to London and northern France for 12 days from July 22 to August 2, 2004. The Sundheims have returned to France every three to four years during their time in Charleston. Pam has taught the Foreign Language Department's Methods course, FLE 3400, since 1988 and French at Mattoon High School since 1968.

Penelope J. Clay attended the Clean Gulf Conference in New Orleans, November 19-21, 2003, as a Coast Guard Auxiliary delegate. She participated as an interpreter with the USCG and the delegation from the

Mexican Navy and also worked with a group to standardize terminology for a document to be used by the USCG and the Mexican Navy.

☞ **Shelley French** attended a two-week seminar for teachers of German in Göttingen, Germany on June 16-27. The highlight of the seminar was the diversity of the participants who came from Belarus, Bosnia, Latvia, Cameroon, France, Hungary, India, Poland, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, and the United States. The seminar provided the participants with an excellent opportunity to learn more about many different cultures while exploring different techniques for teaching German. ☞ **Kathryn Bulver (FR)** attended the annual Central States Conference (CSC) meeting in Minneapolis in February, where she gave two presentations: a 3-hour workshop on poetry appreciation and writing for French teachers, and an hour-long session on techniques for teaching the past tense. The "past tense" presentation was subsequently chosen from among 150 presentations as "Best of CSC," and went on (with Dr. B.) to represent the Central States region at the annual conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) conference in Philadelphia on November 22.

The ACTFL trip was Dr. Bulver's first trip to both ACTFL and Philadelphia and, despite some travel "adventures" (including not having a room at the hotel upon her arrival and being caught in a blindingly dangerous rain storm on her drive back from the Indianapolis airport!), she found it to be a very rewarding experience, and plans to attend and present at the 2004 ACTFL conference, which will be held in Chicago.

☞ The annual Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ICTFL) conference took place on November 6-8 in Itasca, Illinois. **Karl Konrad (GR)**, **Penny Clay (SP)** and **Kathryn Bulver (FR)** were in attendance.

Karl Konrad and **Julia Mullikin** of Herscher High near Kankakee talked about two Rotary Programs for High School students. Julia talked about her HS Rotary Interact service club that raises funds to support communities in Guatemala, most notably, perhaps, **Penelope Clay** presented "Teaching Law-Enforcement Spanish in Two Days." This session explained the method designed by **Dr. Luis Clay Méndez** for teaching Spanish to U.S. Coast Guard personnel. The book *Basic Emergency Spanish Teaching*, written by Dr. Clay Méndez, was printed by the USCG, and the method was taught in Coast Guard stations in Texas and Florida. The session was scheduled to be presented by Dr. Clay Méndez, but because of his untimely death, Mrs. Clay presented an overview of the emergency approach and explored several lessons with participants.

Kathryn Bulver presented a 3-hour poetry appreciation and writing workshop for French teachers titled "Atelier de

through their SOLAR OVEN Project. Karl's portion of the presentation focused on the Rotary Youth Exchange program as an opportunity to utilize Inbound students as a classroom resource and as an opportunity for language students who are seeking to add yet another language to their repertoire by total immersion in the language and culture of another country.

Karl also presented "Power Point Basics," an introductory session intended to help the absolute novice with getting started and "Karneval is Kool," a session intended for German teachers interested in gaining access to new web and video materials about Karneval. The presentation also made use of input from those teachers who had taught a unit on Karneval in Germany. The session was well received and included a section on the usefulness of receiving German TV, a new 24 hr German satellite service.

As a member of the Conference Program Committee, Karl was instrumental in creating a Seminar on Bauhaus architecture that was attended by 19 instructors of German. The seminar took place at the Goethe Institute Chicago and included a tour of buildings that are examples of the German Bauhaus school, whose members left Germany for the US in the early 30's to end up creating Chicago's skyline as we know it today. As one of the Network Trainers of the Goethe Institute, Karl is happy to assist anyone with information leading to the creation of a teaching unit on the Bauhaus movement and/or put interested German teachers in touch with people who can help organize a field trip to Chicago.

For more information German teachers should visit the following web site:

<http://www.goethe.de/uk/chi/ensnetz.htm>

For a virtual tour of Chicago, visit:
<http://www.goethe.de/uk/chi/netz30/netz46.htm>

poésie française." As Region IV Director of ICTFL, Dr. Bulver also attended various board meetings.

The department is proud to be a continuing presence at the ICTFL conference. We encourage any of you who are teaching foreign languages in Illinois to join this group. If you happen to be in Region IV (which includes the following counties: Champaign, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Kankakee, Livingston, Macon, Moultrie, McLean, Piatt, Shelby, Vermillion, and Woodford) contact region IV director **Kathryn Bulver** at cfkmb@eiu.edu) for information on activities and membership. If you already are a member of ICTFL and live or teach in one

these counties, but have not been receiving my e-mail newsletter, please contact me and I'll be sure to put you on my list.

Visit us via the Internet

Instructors love to hear from former students, especially when it's not just to answer a request for a letter of recommendation (though we're happy to do that as well)! Drop us an e-mail to let us know what you're up to, or just to say hello. Here are our e-mail addresses:

Stephen Canfield (chair):	cfsac@eiu.edu
Kathryn Bulver (newsletter editor):	cfkmb@eiu.edu
Carlos Amaya	cfcaa@eiu.edu
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Thank You! Merci! ¡Gracias! Danke!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the alums and friends who made donations to the department's Telefund account and the Foundation as well as other special accounts during the past year. We are very grateful for your donations

Your assistance is appreciated!

The department would again like to ask for your assistance. The Gift Account--which we use to fund student travel awards and other programs that are not otherwise covered by our budget, including Foreign Language Week activities and this newsletter--is dependant upon your contributions. We are asking you once again to consider donating to the department. As in the past, we hope to receive enough in donations to continue to fund our Travel Scholarships. In order to do so, we would appreciate receiving your donations by **Friday, March 5**. Your donations are very important to us and are greatly appreciated, by both faculty and students who benefit from them.

Contributors:

In addition to those alumni and students cited, the following have submitted articles and/or information for

this edition of the newsletter:

Karen Taylor	Karl Konrad
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Keeping in Touch

We want to hear from you! Please send any comments, corrections or (especially) submissions to the editor, **Kathryn Bulver**, at cfkmb@eiu.edu or by mail (Department of Foreign Languages, 1159 Coleman Hall, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, Illinois 61920).

Check out previous years' newsletters on our web site:
<http://www.eiu.edu/~language/>

-Kathryn M. Bulver, Editor