

# *Foreign Language News*

**Department of Foreign Languages  
Coleman Hall, Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, Illinois 61920**

**Vol. 12, No. 1**

**Editor: Kathryn M. Bulver, Ph.D.  
Winter 2006**

***Dear alumni and friends,***

Greetings from all of us! We hope your year has started well and that you and your loved ones will have the best year ever.

As always this past year has been one of changes, challenges and new charges. If you've already leafed through this newsletter, you know that both Don and Pam Sundheim retired at the end of the Spring 2005 semester. Anyone who has had anything to do with this department within the last 30 years knows how much we owe Don Sundheim. He was responsible for designing and maintaining our language lab from its inception. In fact, more than anyone else Professor Sundheim has been responsible for bringing our department into the technological wonderland of computers and the Internet. Over the years, he has been generous, willing and so patient with some of us Neo-Luddite dunderheads and has stood as a marvelous example of the enhancements technology has to offer us all. I speak not only for myself, but certainly for others, when I say that I am a better teacher, scholar and administrator because I have had the privilege to work with Don Sundheim. He will be sorely missed.

In much the same fashion, we will miss Pam Sundheim. She has taught the teaching methods course for our teacher certification candidates since before I came to EIU in 1992 and has unerringly set a standard for professionalism and commitment to her craft and to her students that would be difficult to match. If you are a language teacher who came through our program, and had the good fortune to train with her, you know whereof I speak. I have had the privilege of working with Pam Sundheim within our department as well as through ICTFL where she has shown the same generosity and commitment to her teaching colleagues that she has shown to the students in her classroom. She, too, will be sorely missed.

Neither of these fine colleagues will ever truly be replaced. On the other hand, neither will they be forgotten. As a parting and most generous gift, the Sundheims have endowed the Don and Pam Sundheim Study Abroad Scholarships. The establishment of this fund – along with the Richard Crouse Memorial Scholarship and the Luis Clay-Mendez Memorial Scholarship – brings to three the number of new scholarships established for our majors in the past ten years. These scholarships grow due to contributions by friends and alumni such as yourself. Such generosity, both on the part of our emeriti professors, and on the part of our friends and alumni, is exceptional and greatly appreciated. Without such continued support, the quality of our programs and the rich experiences we are able to offer our students would not be possible. I commend all of you for your help and thank you sincerely.

There are just a few other developments I want to pass on before turning you loose on the rest of this newsletter. First, I believe that last year I told you that we had succeeded in returning German to our Teacher Certification Program. As a follow-up to that old news I'm proud to tell you that we will be sending out our first German student teacher in Spring 2006. Second, Jan Marquardt from the Department of Art and I will again be offering our Paris Study Abroad Program next July. Take a look at our Web page and see if you might like to come along: <http://www.eiu.edu/~parisprogram/> I guarantee an edifying month in Paris at a price you cannot beat. Third, join with me in welcoming our new Study Abroad Director, Wendy Williamson, to campus. Ms. Williamson comes to us with a rich and varied experience in study abroad and has already made a noticeable impact on our programs. Again take a look at the new Study Abroad Web site: <http://www.eiu.edu/~edabroad/index.html>. We are particularly pleased with the changes since as a department we have a unique stake in and commitment to study abroad activities.

Finally, our department has been chosen to do an extensive self-study and program analysis during the Spring 2006 semester. Part of that study will involve surveying alumni about your experiences in our program and how they have served you since then for good or ill. If you are contacted, please take the time to help us out. If you are not contacted directly, please take the time to contact me on your own with comments and suggestions. We would love to hear from you at any rate, so please keep in touch.

--Sincerely, Stephen Canfield, Chair

### **NEW ALUMNI:**

Please join us in extending our congratulations to the following students who graduated in 2005:

*Spring 2005:* Michelle Bokios ( SP), Kelli Davis (SP), Gerri Hall (SP), Amy Harrington (SP), Michelle Leisten (SP), Cassie Taylor (SP).

*Fall 2005:* Tether Campbell (SP), Aleksandra Kryza (SP), Michael Montalbano (SP), Lauren Vaccaro (SP), Seferina VanPelt (SP).

### **SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Spring 2005 Scholarship recipients:

*Dr. Luis Clay-Méndez Scholarship* - Tether Campbell (SP) *Bobbie King Memorial Scholarship*- Tether Campbell (SP), Michael Montalbano (SP), Andrea Fritz (FR), Jason Grey (GR) *Ruth Carman Scholarship*- Tether Campbell (SP) *Richard Crouse Scholarship* - Seferina Van Pelt (SP), Matthew Larsen (SP), Justin Cummings (SP) *Study Abroad* - Andrea Fritz (FR), Matthew Larsen (SP), Amanda Frame (SP)

### **DON AND PAM SUNDHEIM STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP:**

The Department of Foreign Languages would like to announce the creation of the Don and Pam Sundheim Study Abroad Scholarships approved by the EIU Foundation at their June 2005 meeting. Don and Pam have, in effect, endowed a scholarship fund that pledges adequate support to provide three \$500 scholarships each year for Foreign Language Majors seeking to study abroad who meet the established criteria. In addition, they are donating enough funds so that these scholarship awards can begin immediately in SP2006. They will continue contributions to sustain these awards for several years until the fund reaches a level adequate to be self sustaining. In addition, they have added a stipulation that they are willing to match donations made by others to the scholarship. What Don and Pam have done is truly a wondrous gift to our department and to the students we serve. It comes at a time when study abroad has been deemed crucial to our department and to the central mission of the University. In addition, it recognizes a significant need that EIU students have and that we have never been able to satisfy adequately. It would be difficult to praise enough what Don and Pam have had the vision and generosity to put in motion. Friends of the Foreign Languages department who are interested in contributing to this scholarship should contact Stephen Canfield, Chair, Department of Foreign Languages, 581-3021, [sacanfield@eiu.edu](mailto:sacanfield@eiu.edu)

These scholarships support Eastern Illinois University students majoring in any foreign language who wish to study their target language abroad at some time during their junior or senior year

### **ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM:**

There were three foreign language teachers among the twenty-five participants in EIU's Alternative Certification Program in summer 2005. It was a great pleasure to meet and work with them. Patricia Anderson teaches French at Springfield Southeast High School. Paul Baumann teaches Spanish at Okaw Valley High School. Siobhain Pyne teaches Spanish at the Next Generation Primary School in Champaign. For more information on the program, please see the website:

<http://www.eiu.edu/~eiuttp/>

--Shelley French

### **GERMAN DAY ACTIVITIES:**

On November 4th, I took 5 of my German students (Jay Grey, Robin Grey, Alexander Saiz, Erich Voigt, Jon Dean) to Deutscher Tag ("German Day") at Southeast High School in Springfield. We were joined by emeritus faculty member Karl Konrad. Under the motto "Sprich Deutsch!" and centered around various cultural activities, this annual event brings high school students together with other learners and native speakers of German. This year, almost 150 high school students attended the event. Our EIU German students supervised and assisted with the activities, such as games, skits, dances, songs, crafts, and presentations. The reward for their efforts was a free

dinner (lots of Bratwurst, Schnitzel and Strudel!) and German chocolates.

--Christiane Eydt-Beebe

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGES WEEK:**

March 7-10 2005 was Foreign Languages Week. Activities included a mask competition sponsored by the Spanish honorary society Sigma Delta Pi, movies in Spanish, French and German, a Spanish games night, a presentation by Carlos Amaya on "The foods of Latin America," and a multi-lingual Internet activity. We hope that we can repeat our success this spring.

### **SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY:**

During Spring 2005, Sigma Delta Pi, the Honorary Spanish Society, under the guidance of advisor Carlos Amaya, sponsored various activities. The organization participated in the celebration of the Foreign Language Week 2005 with the showing of "El Norte," and a mask competition. Sigma also had other activities for the campus community such as fund raisers and "El día de los niños" during which students and faculty were invited to bring their children for a day of fun and activities. Sigma had the members initiation ceremony 2005 on October 23, 2005 at the Foreign Language Lab, welcoming 8 new members: Kimberly Burnitz, Christina Felton, Lucio Herrera, Tracy Lambdin, Matthew Larsen, Jaime Peña, Diana Ruiz and Jennifer Shafer.

### **LATINO HERITAGE MONTH:**

Latino Heritage Month is a yearly celebration that runs from mid-September to mid-October. As usual, our department was very active in the event. Carlos Amaya was a member of the organizing committee, and co-lead (with Kristen Routt) a workshop titled "Flores de papel: Paper Flowers in Latin American Culture and the Day of the Cross celebration." They also did a presentation on "Pablo Neruda, his poetry and his life" together with a "Poetry Writing Workshop." Carlos' FLS 4650 Theatre Class presented two, one-act plays at the Coleman Auditorium.

**DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES:** Don Sundheim and Pam Sundheim retired in May of 2005.

**Karen Taylor** was promoted to the rank of full professor.

**Shelley French** received a Faculty Achievement Award in the category of service. After working as a part-time replacement for Luis Clay, **Vanesa Landrus** has been hired as a full-time faculty member in Spanish. She passed her qualifying exams in the doctoral program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and is now working on her doctoral thesis, which concerns women writers of Argentina of the 19th century. She is expecting her second child, a boy, in February.

Returning to our department after a 4-year absence, **Christiane Eydt-Beebe**, who was formerly a part-time instructor in our department, has joined us as a full-time German instructor.

### **AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

EIU Foreign Language majors and minors, along with several students from other disciplines, taught in five after-school enrichment programs throughout the area during the spring semester of 2005. Monroe Elementary School in Casey, Illinois is our oldest program, started by Herb Breidenbach almost ten years ago. There, Amanda Frame, Elizabeth Morgan, Cessily Wilson and Lara Wooten taught Spanish to first- and second-graders, Nicole Godzicki and Cora Polarek taught French to third- and fourth-graders, and Samantha Bjornbak and Colleen McKenney taught German to fifth- and sixth-graders. Geri Hall and Michelle Leisten taught Spanish to students in all grades at St. Mary's School in Paris, Illinois.

This was our second year in Newman, Illinois, where Spanish was taught by Amanda Frame (first grade), Aleksandra Kryza (second grade) and Katherine Ferguson (third grade). Amy Butram taught French to fourth-graders and Inge Jones taught German to children in fifth and sixth grade.

Amanda Frame, Jennifer Stemle and Ivan Miranda taught Spanish to third-graders at Carl

Sandburg Elementary School. Amy Felt and Allison West taught French and Annie Stewart taught German. Because of the success of the spring program, there was also a program at Carl Sandburg during the fall semester, open to children in second and third grade. Colleen McKenney taught German, April Karpus taught French and Chrissy Nutter, Joe Unruh and Miranda Woolever taught Spanish.

The staff and parents are very supportive and full of praise for the program and its teachers. It is a pleasure to observe our students working with the children and the enthusiasm of both groups.

--Shelley French, After-School Program Supervisor

**STUDENT NEWS:** **Matthew Larsen** and **Michael Montalbano** studied at the University of Salamanca in Spain during the summer of 2005. Both of them traveled extensively through Spain and Portugal. **Joseph Unruh** studied at the University of Salamanca in Spain for the spring semester of 2005.

**Amanda Frame** and **Aleksandra Kryza** studied in Cordoba, Argentina, during the summer in the Mundo Español program.

**Whitney Tarbuton**, a Spanish minor and the current president of the Spanish Honorary Society Sigma Delta Pi studied abroad in Spain last summer after winning a scholarship from the national headquarters of the society.

**Andrea Fritz** returned to Eastern in December, after spending the fall semester studying in Bordeaux, France.

Spanish Major **Justin Cummins** has gained a bit of notoriety lately as one of the "faces of EIU." Just visit the University's home page ([www.eiu.edu](http://www.eiu.edu)) to see his smiling face!

**ALUMNI NEWS:** **Kristy Poteete** (SP '02) married Eric Kriegermeier in September. The couple rented a hunting lodge to accommodate the guests for the wedding. Kristy made her entrance to the ceremony on horseback and she and Eric danced the tango at their reception. Kristy and Eric currently live in Chicago, where Kristy is the Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff in the governor's office. After graduating from Eastern, Kristy lived in London for a year, and in December 2003, she received her M.A. in Latin American Area Studies from the University of London. As part of her degree work, she went to Paraguay to do research on the country's environmental policies.

**Daniel Johnson** (SP '94) has a position with the Foreign Service in Monterey, Mexico.

**Lauren Keppler** (SP '03) is working in the ESL and Bilingual Dept. at Bolingbrook High School in Chicago. She spent her summer in China, Germany and Spain. She is working on her M.A. in ESL and bilingual education at NIU.

**Katie Agles** (SP '03) is working on her Master's in Spanish from Middlebury College in Vermont, at their school abroad in Madrid. She will be completing the program after one final semester.

**Paul Baumann** earned a master's degree in Historical Administration from Eastern Illinois University in May of 2005. After graduating, he worked for the Lincoln Log Cabin. He completed the alternative certification program here at Eastern to be certified to teach high school. He currently has a full-time position teaching Spanish in high school.

**Rachel Weishar** (Siler) (FR '98) writes: I taught at Triton College outside Chicago for a semester before my husband and I moved to Arizona in February. . . we traveled back to Mons last year while we were in Paris for a week. It was awesome: We ate waffles, chocolate, beer, ice cream, and fries all in 4 hours before our train returned to Paris.

I also took a group of 40 seventh graders to Montréal and Québec two years in a row when I was

teaching 6th-8th grade in Palatine. The first year, I put the trip together myself and it was amazing. I even managed to arrange a half-day at a school in Montréal where the students nervously conversed with each other.

After we visited friends here in Arizona last spring, I decided that I needed a break from teaching and my husband wanted a break from shoveling snow, so we just decided to go for it. I live in the desert outside Phoenix now and I have a new baby girl named Josephine (4 months old) . **Angélica Baumann** (SP '03) continues as a full-time Spanish teacher at Mattoon High School.

**Reagan Jauch** (formerly Reagan Schultz GR 2000) sends us news: After graduation I began working for a tour company, Alumni Holidays International, as a Passenger Sales Representative. I was married in October in 2002 and now have a 1 year old son named Ryan. We live in a townhouse in Wauconda, IL, but will soon be moving to Milwaukee where my husband has taken a job as a financial planner. I currently work 2 days a week in the marketing department at Alumni Holidays and spend the rest of my time at home with our son! **Kim Edwards** (SP '04) writes: I am now teaching Spanish I and II at Plainfield Central High School. I love it! I love my kids! I love my department! I love the administration! I love the school! And I just started coaching the Junior Varsity cheerleaders. I love it so much!! I was a cheerleader for 12 years, ya know. It feels so good to be back involved in it. I always try to instill my passion and dedication I had for the sport...it's a sport now!

**Michelle Leisten** (SP '05) writes: I am currently working as a graduate assistant in the Office of International Programs while I pursue my Master in Business Administration here at Eastern. Working for Bill Elliott, I am in charge of handling the e-mail inquiries of prospective students as well as managing special projects related to the revision of recruiting efforts by IP, such as redesigning the departmental website and developing an informational CD. I was also called upon this past November to represent Eastern at a university fair and school visit program in Mexico City, Mexico. Concerning that trip, special thanks are certainly due to Dr. Amaya for all of the homework that he ever made me do in Business Spanish, and to Dr. Taylor for her discerning edit of my translation of our promotional brochure.

When I graduate this upcoming December, I am looking forward to finding a place with another International Programs Office in the state of Illinois. **FACULTY ACTIVITIES:** **Carlos Amaya** and **Kristen Rountt** participated in the Fall Institute for area high school teachers in October. They presented a workshop on the Día de la Cruz and showed how to make paper flowers that are used to decorate crosses. They also did a workshop on Pablo Neruda which included a poetry-writing exercise. In April, **Kristen Rountt** presented a paper at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference entitled "Sanctity or Self-Will? Madre María de San José (1656-1719) and the Ascetic Path to Holiness."

**Kathryn M. Bulver** presented a workshop-- "Explorez, racontez, inventez: les contes de fées dans la classe de français"-- on the use of fairy tales and story-telling techniques in the French classroom at the annual meeting of the American Association of Teachers of French, held on July 7-10 in Québec City. While visiting Québec for the first time, Dr. Bulver spent quite a bit of time exploring the town, visiting her favorite online French-language bookshop/CD shop (Archambault) in person, participating in several guided tours and events, and listening and speaking to Québec natives (finally understanding their very distinctive accent by the end of her stay—but not feeling bad about misunderstandings, after talking to several native French speakers who had the same difficulties).

Dr. Bulver also attended the annual conference of the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ICTFL) held October 20-22 in Lisle, Illinois. Dr. Bulver presented two sessions: "Poetry Writing in the Language Class" (a session open to all foreign language teachers, on techniques for

exploring poetic language and writing poetry) and "Jouons!" (a French-language session presenting pedagogical applications of games specifically for the French class). In addition, as the Region IV Associate Director of ICTFL, Dr. Bulver attended numerous organizational meetings.

**Vanesa Landrus** presented "Género sexual y racial en el ciudadano emblemático de la Argentina decimonónica" in MALAS 55th Annual Conference on November 4th. Also, on December 9th she presented "Libertad, No Licencia Igualdad para ambos sexos: Argentine Women Essayists and Their Contribution to the Project of National Consolidation" in the Brownbag Series for Women Studies at Eastern. **Carlos Amaya** presented papers at the following conferences: 58th Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. University of Kentucky, April 21 -23, 2005. XIX Annual Mexican Conference at the University of California, Irvine, April 28 – 30, 55th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Association of Latin American Studies (MALAS) at Webster University in Saint Louis. November 3 – 5, 2005.

**Richard Crome** spent the Christmas vacation in Zacatlán, Mexico. He has a cabin there and uses every excuse to visit the high country of Mexico. You would not be surprised to know that he uses some of his experiences as material for class discussion. He sends all of his former students his best wishes for a great new year and would welcome news from them.

#### **EMERITUS FACULTY NEWS:**

**Don and Pam Sundheim** write: On August 23 our second grandchild was born, Anna Sundheim, in Akron, Ohio. She is the daughter of our son Scott and his wife Rachel, and she joins sister Ellie. Since October, we have been involved in the construction of a sunroom, a 21 x 28 feet addition to our home. While power washing the house in preparation, Don stumbled and broke his right wrist. This hampered his handyman efforts, so Pam had to pick up the slack. As far as building, we honestly don't know how you could undertake a project this size and work too! Decisions must be made on a daily basis and Home Depot has become our second home. The work will soon come to a close on the sunroom and then we can start on the rest of the house! Prior to and between these momentous events, we have tried to do some traveling and hiking with Asheville, North Carolina being our present favorite place for a cool summer vacation. We would like to urge alumni to consider donating to the Sundheim Study Abroad Program if they wish to give Eastern foreign language majors an opportunity to study in a country where their target language is spoken.

**Dr. Heribert Breidenbach**, who retired from EIU in December 2000, works as a docent at the Ernest Hemingway Museum and at Hemingway's birth house in Oak Park, Illinois. He and his wife Flora, who is presently Director for Studies Abroad at Illinois College in Jacksonville, continue to take college students on cultural excursions for academic credit to various Latin American countries. A trip to Malta, the smallest country in the European Union, is in the planning stages.

**Karl-Ludwig J Konrad** keeps in touch with Germany via two satellite services offered on Dishnet as well as reviewing recently released DVDs of German movies; The two satellite services are called German TV and ProSieben Sat Eins. German TV is similar to our PBS while the other offers programs of more soaps and comedy features in addition to full feature movies. Both can serve to keep in touch with the German language or improve your listening skills tremendously. German TV however will cease to exist December 31, 2005. A replacement is likely to be Deutsche Welle TV, which is very informative but lacks the inclusion of excellent children's programming and soaps that are easy to understand. German movies on DVD are also an excellent way of improving one's language skills. Few German movies make it into this country, but those that do will be subtitled for sure. Amazon.de however offers in excess of 700 titles of excellent German movies in

many categories. Many are offered with either an English language track and subtitles, or both. All require special settings of playback software for a computer, or a region free DVD player, available for as little as \$74. Dr. Konrad still keeps strong ties to our department, and this semester he is teaching a senior seminar dealing with the conflict-laden history of different immigrant groups as they struggled to become part of this country.

### **THANK YOU! MERCI! ¡GRACIAS! DANKE**

The Department of Foreign Languages would once again like to extend our heartfelt thanks to those alums and friends who made donations to the department over the past year. Our Gift Account—which is used to fund student travel awards and other programs that are not covered by our budget—is dependant upon your contributions.

### **Thanks to the following alumni and friends who made monetary donations to the department in the past year:**

Jennifer Vargas	Debra S. Kinsey	Dorothy V. Cumby	Joan Kennard
Phillip Blair	Daniel W. Dickover	Elicia K. Slate-Monti	Jane L. Preston
Karen Dykstra	Robert E. Hallowell	Anne K. Todnem	R. Joe Campbell
Kristen Routt	Andrea L. Evans	Richard L. Gunn	Jean Harrison
Don and Pam Sundheim	Eulalee L. Anderson	Luella Cooley	Carol A. Craig
David Carpenter	Brigitte J. Brown	Louise E. Bidle	William N. Hatfield
Barbara Yesnosky	Marcus D. Maier	Janet A. Evans	Mary F. Maxwell-Burns
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Rachel M. Grunder	Paula M. Emerson-Glade	James D. Young	D. Patricia King
Wendy B. Satchwell	Colleen L. Pagnani	Carole L. Heuser	

We are asking you once again to consider donating to the department, or to either the Luis Clay Memorial Scholarship or the Don and Pam Sundheim Travel Award. Any donation you could spare would be greatly appreciated by both faculty and the students who benefit from the awards. And don't forget to see if the company you work for has a matching donations program. That way, your gift will go twice as far.

### **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:**

As always, this newsletter is a joint effort, and I would be unable to create it without the information and articles submitted by those cited in the text of the newsletter, as well as the following:

Missa Anderson (proofreader extraordinaire)	Karen Taylor	Heribert Breidenbach
Karl Konrad	Penny Clay	Kristen Routt
Carlos Amaya	Richard Crome	

### **KEEP IN TOUCH!**

We would love to hear from you. Please drop us an e-mail or a letter to let us know what you are up to, or just to say hello. Here are our e-mail addresses (note that these are all new addresses):

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Editor's note: After 12 years(!) as editor of the Foreign Language news, I will be stepping down to let someone else take over. I hope you have enjoyed my efforts up to now!

--Kathryn Bulver, Newsletter Editor