

Foreign Language News

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

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Editor: Kathryn M. Bulver, Ph.D.



Dear alumni and friends,

I'm sitting by the fire writing this letter and trying to decide where to start. As many of you probably know, I started working at EIU in 1992 and commuted from Urbana driving two hours a day through the heat and the rain and at least two blizzards that I will never forget. Well, I finally hit my limit with that life and we packed up and moved to Charleston - 11th Street to be exact. Now I have my choice of driving to campus and taking ten to twenty minutes in the car finding a parking space and strolling to Coleman Hall, or I can take fifteen minutes to walk from home or about four and a half minutes on my bike. I like this much better and I especially like the closer and more easy contact with the campus. I love walking home through the student neighborhoods and being hailed by students I know. Hey, I got offered beer three times on my way home Friday afternoon of homecoming weekend - too bad I was in such a hurry that evening. It was a temptation. At any rate, I like living here and find myself wishing we'd made the move a long time ago.

It has been such a busy year full of challenges in the Department, what with the budget crunch that is going on in higher education, radical state mandated changes in Teacher Certification, expansion of Study Abroad and the usual rigors of maintaining our program. Let me see if I can bring you up to date with the highlights.

First, I want to thank all of you for your donations over the past year. As a result of your generosity, we will be able to continue and hopefully even expand our Study Abroad Scholarship awards. I especially want to thank those of you who answered our request to contribute to the newly established Luis Clay-Méndez Memorial Scholarship. We were able to meet the June deadline in raising adequate funds to endow the scholarship, and we will be making our first award this Spring. Thank you so much.

Further on in this newsletter you will read about the expansion of our After-School Enrichment Programs that we run in various elementary schools. We are pleased with this move for a number of reasons that you will learn about. We have also, thanks to Shelley French, expanded our participation in the new Alternative Teacher Certification program that brings people interested in teaching, but who did not prepare as traditional undergraduates, into the profession. In addition, we have succeeded in bringing German certification back into the program.

On a related note, Shelley French was granted tenure in our department this past year, as well as promoted to Associate Professor. Congratulations are most certainly in order for this well-deserved change in her status.

Finally, I want to take a moment to tell you that Karl Konrad has decided to retire from teaching at the end of the Fall 2004 semester. By the time you receive this newsletter, he will, in fact, have moved on to what we all hope will be the best and most satisfying part of his life. Professor Konrad has served our department as well as WEIU for over 30 years and his contribution has been far reaching in the number of lives he has touched and made significantly brighter. I feel privileged that he came back to Foreign Languages while I have been chair and that I have had the opportunity to work with him for these past years. His enthusiasm for his profession and his students has been unsurpassed. He will never be replaced.

On that note, I will close and let you get on with reading the rest of this newsletter. I hope you will enjoy it. It is our effort to stay in touch with you. And you should all do the same. Drop us a line and let us know what you are up to. We would love to know.

--Stephen Canfield, Chair

New Alums

The department wishes to congratulate the following students who graduated in 2004:

Spring: **Kristy Colhoff** (SP), **Kimberly Edwards** (SP, Teacher's Cert.), **Holly Grant** (SP), **Nina Grant** (SP), **Maria Huanca-Montano** (SP), **Corona Lawrence** (SP), **Kristin Mauger** (SP).

Summer: **Jaime Hodge** (formerly Cisek) (SP), **Emily Vandever** (SP).

Fall: **Matthew Jones** (SP), **Timothy Loeffel Jr.** (SP), **Kate B. Riley** (SP).

Alumni News

☞ **Jennifer Shonk** (FR '01) has completed her MA in French Literature at the University of Colorado-Boulder and is continuing in the PhD program.

☞ **Karen Meyer** (SP '97) left her job teaching Spanish and ESL in the Chicago area in order to get married and move to Florida.

☞ **Jennifer Greicius** (SP '98) has completed the requirements for alternative certification (see below) to teach Spanish in the public schools. She fulfilled the requirements under the direction of **Dr. Shelley French**.

☞ **Angelica Baumann** (SP '99) is enjoying great success as a popular Spanish teacher at Mattoon High School.

☞ **Holly** (SP '03) and **Nina Grant** (SP '04) both live near Eastern and make frequent visits with their adorable children, Ethan and Elizabeth. Nina is expecting her second child.

☞ **Paul Baumann** (SP '99) is completing a master's degree in historical administration at EIU.

☞ **Zoraida Irizarry** (SP '00) is completing a master's degree in Educational Administration at EIU. She is conducting research on Latina administrators at major universities.

☞ **Vanesa Landrus** (SP '00) is currently a full-time instructor of Spanish in our department while working towards her doctorate in Latin American literature at the University of Illinois-Urbana. In the fall, she taught elementary and intermediate Spanish as well as FLS 4320, Early Spanish American Literature.

☞ **Lauren Keppler** (SP '03) has traveled extensively since graduating from Eastern, doing student teaching in Yucatan, Mexico, and, in the spring of 2004, visiting Egypt, Turkey, Eastern Europe and Germany. She is currently teaching ESL Level 1 in the Bilingual department at Bollingbrook High School.

☞ **Judi Konrad** (GR '73) was inducted into the Rotary District 6490 Hall of Honour at the district conference in Urbana in November. She was one of two honorees who were recognized for their service to the district. Judi served as Assistant Governor for three years, chaired the World Service committee and serves actively on the Youth Exchange committee. She also lent a hand in welcoming visitors from other countries as part of the Rotary Group Study Exchange Program and was instrumental in bringing a delegation of Russian businessmen to the Charleston/Mattoon area as part of the Productivity Enhancement Project, a lesser-known part of the Marshall Plan. As Judi's husband, Karl, was inducted last year, the husband and wife team are the only Hall of Honorees inductees from the same family. Judi currently works as assistant manager at the Union Bookstore.

☞ **Kevin Cahill** (SP '01) sends this: I am going before an oral board soon in my hometown (Glen Ellyn, Illinois) for a police officer job; and one of my strong points in my presentation will be that I, if hired, could be the first bilingual Spanish officer in the town. I am still presently managing a restaurant in Chicago, but hope to move on to something a little more exciting soon. I would really like a job where my Spanish would come in handy and I hope this works out.

Focus on Alumni

Allegra Wilber turned 84 this year. She came to the USA in 1946 as a war bride having married Dallas Wilber the previous year in Cairo, Egypt. Upon her arrival in Charleston, Elizabeth Michael, who was teaching French at EIU at the time, invited her to attend French Club meetings. Mme Wilber accepted the invitation and began her association with EIU students and faculty that has continued for nearly 60 years. In 1954 she became a student in our department and graduated with a BSE in Spanish in 1958. She also received her MA in Spanish from EIU in 1970. Her first job was at Mattoon High School where she was instrumental in bringing the first AFS student, a girl from Columbia, to the area. She retired in 1988. Mme Wilber speaks French, Arabic, Italian, Spanish and English. She is also proficient in Latin. Over the years Mme Wilber has served the EIU community in innumerable ways as a volunteer. She continues to be particularly active at functions involving international students. Our department owes Mme Wilber a special note of thanks as a consistent and generous donor.

Student news

▣ Several of our students have spent a semester of study at the University of Salamanca, Spain. **Kristy Colhoff** (SP), **Kristin Mauger** (SP) and **Elizabeth Morgan** (SP) spent the spring semester of 2004 there. **Randi Dover** (SP) and **Liza Marinelarena** (SP) studied there during the summer of 2004. Randi lived with a Spanish family and had the opportunity to travel extensively through Spain. According to her, the high point of her trip was the time she spent in Barcelona. During her stay, Liza went to Pamplona for the running of the bulls and travelled to Portugal.

Michelle Leisten (SP) also studied at the University of Salamanca during fall semester 2004, and **Joseph Unruh** (SP) is currently spending a semester there.

▣ **Lauren Vaccaro** (SP, Teacher Certification) studied at Malaca Instituto in Malaga, Spain this past summer.

Awards

Thanks in part to alumni donations, we were able to award scholarship money to the following very deserving students in the spring of 2004:

***Ruth Carman Scholarship:** Cassie Taylor (SP), Michelle Leisten (SP) ;

***Bobbi King Memorial Scholarship:** Jason Grey (GR), Randi Dover (SP), Cassie Taylor (SP), Michelle Leisten (SP);

***Richard Crouse Memorial Scholarship:** Tether Campbell (SP), Cassie Taylor (SP).

Michelle Leisten (SP), **Randi Dover** (SP), and **Joseph Unruh** (SP) received departmental study-abroad awards of \$500 each, which came directly from funds contributed by you--our alumni and friends of the department--over the past few years.

Karl Konrad Retires

After 34 1/4 years of service to students and EIU as a German teacher, language lab director, and TV producer at WEIU TV during its founding years, I'm left with wonderful memories of students who enjoyed learning. Returning in 1998 to my home department was special, not only because the foreign language faculty gave me a warm welcome, but also because of becoming re-involved in professional associations like AATG, ICTFL,

and Central States. The welcome by professionals, including many old friends, was as enjoyable as meeting former EIU language students who had become language teachers. My involvement in GlobalFest has provided me a natural link between my goals of foreign language teaching and my involvement with various Rotary programs, especially the Rotary Youth Exchange. Perhaps our globe does stand a chance when young people seize every opportunity to appreciate the diversity of cultures and languages that makes life more interesting.

It is my intention to stay connected to language instruction and any endeavor promoting peaceful coexistence between people of different cultures.

To all my former students: thank you for being a part of my professional life at EIU. I'm looking forward to seeing some of you at one or the other professional meetings.

—Karl Konrad

After-School Enrichment Program

EIU Foreign Language majors taught in several after-school enrichment programs throughout the area. The program at Monroe Elementary in Casey is our oldest program, started by **Herb Breidenbach** almost ten years ago. **Michelle Leisten**, **Kara Hilligoss**, **Lennia Campbell** and **Leslie Johnson** taught Spanish to first and second graders; **Annie Sniegowski**, **Niki Jensen**, **Renee Sliwa** and **Rebecca Boudin** taught French to third and fourth graders, and **Jason Grey** taught German to fifth and sixth graders.

In Newman, **Tether Campbell**, **Amy Harrington** and **Matt Jones** taught Spanish to children in first, second and third grade and **Vicky Garrison** taught German to fourth graders. I taught German to fifth and sixth graders. It was an enjoyable and enlightening experience.

A new program was started in Charleston at Carl Sandburg Elementary School. **Amy Buttram** and **Meghan Matyasec** taught French and **Gerri Hall** and **Tether Campbell** taught Spanish to third graders.

In the Fall semester of 2004, **Tether Campbell** set up a new program at the Charleston Middle school. She and **Seferina VanPelt**, **Randi Dover** and **Lauren Vaccaro** taught Spanish to seventh graders with learning disabilities.

Seferina VanPelt taught Spanish to two first-grade classes in her son's school in Louisville, Illinois.

Our students received high praise from children, parents and administrators. As the supervisor of these programs, I have the opportunity to observe our students at work. The children are eager to learn and obviously enjoy the entertaining and educational lessons our students present. As of July, 2004, the teaching certificate in foreign languages encompasses K-12. These programs give our students experience in elementary schools that is now necessary because of this change in certification. EIU's foreign language majors are playing an important role in promoting foreign languages and demonstrating the need for early, positive exposure to them. They are also generating good will and positive relationships between EIU and local schools. I thank all who participated for a job well done.

—Shelley French

Clubs and Social Events

●The **Spanish Honor Society SIGMA DELTA PI** had its 2004 initiation ceremony on December 4. Ten people were initiated: **Kelli Davis**, **Katherine Ferguson**, **Whitney Tarbuton**, **Joseph Unruh**, **Gerri Hall**, **Tether Campbell**, **Seferina VanPelt**, **Vanesa Landrus**, **Amy Harrington** and **Cassie Taylor**. The ceremony was lead by **Carlos Amaya** and took place at **Penny Clay's** house.

●The **French Table**, an informal conversational hour, meets Tuesdays 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!

Paris--Summer 2004

The Foreign Languages Department co-sponsored a joint summer study abroad project with the Department of

Art during July 2004. **Stephen Canfield** along with **Jan Marquardt** and **Robert Peterson** of the Department of Art took 22 students to Paris where they studied Art History and French for four weeks. The group arrived in Paris on July 1 and returned to Chicago on the 31st. The students earned 3 semester hours of credit in Art History and three hours in French. It was a diverse group including lower- and upper-division French students, majors from various disciplines including art, biology, psychology, communication disorders, and elementary education, as well as six French teachers from around the state. Participants were housed at the Fondation des États-Unis on the campus of the Cité Internationale de l'Université de Paris. In addition to spending four weeks discovering and, in some cases, rediscovering the splendors of Paris, participants enjoyed day trips to Chartres to visit the cathedral and to Giverny where we toured Claude Monet's home and gardens.

Changes will be made to the program for next year, but it will be offered again. If anyone is interested in signing up to refresh their French and study art, contact Stephen Canfield at cfsac@eiu.edu

Latino Heritage Month

Members of our department were involved in the activities of Latino Heritage Month, beginning in mid-September and continuing through October. **Vanesa Landrus** gave tango lessons which were attended by a very large number of enthusiastic students and faculty members. **Carlos Amaya** presented the movie "El Che: Investigating a Legend." **Karen Taylor** presented a lecture entitled "Isabel Allende: Asian Adventure" about Allende's most recent novel, *The Kingdom of the Golden Dragon*. Dr. Taylor also gave eulogies for the late **Luis Clay-Méndez** and **Johnetta Jones** at the Latino Heritage Banquet. **Gustavo Albear**, who has replaced **Isabel Castro** as the Latino advisor in the Office of Minority Affairs, organized a salsa and merengue night for November 12. The dance group Combo Caliente performed, and a DJ played salsa and merengue to accompany the lively dancing that went on for several hours after the dance program.

Alternative Certification

In May 2003, the alternative route to teacher certification program began under the direction of **Jim Kestner** from the EIU College of Education and Professional Studies. This program targets districts seeking new sources of teachers in areas where there is a shortage. As the teacher of the foreign language methods module, I had the opportunity to work with three Spanish teachers who participated in the program in the summer of 2004: **Jennifer Greicius**, who graduated from our department in 1998 and teaches Spanish at Rantoul high school; **Jim Walker**, who took courses here in the fall of 2003 and the spring of 2004 and teaches for the Shiloh school district in Hume, Illinois; and **David Jamieson**, who teaches Spanish at the Hyde Park Academy in Chicago. They are knowledgeable, energetic and enthusiastic. This unique program allows excellent teachers such as these to enter the profession in a timely fashion in areas where they are desperately needed.

For more information on the program, please view the website: www.eiu.edu/~eiuttp.

--Shelley French

Faculty and Staff News

☞ **Kristin Routt**, **Carlos Amaya** and their daughter **Sophia** welcomed a new addition to their family: **Emma Kristina** was born on May 13.

☞ **Karen Taylor** was invited to contribute an essay to the volume *Studies in Honor of Denah Lida*. The publication is in honor of Dr. Denah Lida, professor emerita at Brandeis University and will appear in print in 2005. Dr. Taylor's essay, entitled "La visión contradictoria de la postguerra," concerns several novels and nonfiction works written by the Spanish author Carman Martin Gaité about the years following the Spanish Civil War. The article is related to Dr. Taylor's course: FLS 4650, Women Writers of Spain and Latin America.

☞ Faculty members participated in the annual GlobalFest celebration in Urbana, Illinois in March. In addition to serving as Master of Ceremonies for the event, **Karl Konrad** was co-facilitator for international students, setting up the registration process for Rotary exchange and other international students, as well as coordinating a parade of international flags that many international students took part in, and supervising sessions taught by Rotary exchange students, including Portuguese and Turkish language sessions. **Shelley French**, with recent alum **Lauren Keppler**, taught four, half-hour beginning Latin sessions.

☞ **Karl Konrad** has been very active in the Illinois Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ICTFL), presenting three sessions at the recent annual conference, and continuing to serve as photographer for the association, and on the ICTFL program committee, preparing the 2005 conference and beyond.

☞ **Carlos Amaya** was awarded two Redden Grants to work on the Latin American Studies web page and to acquire teaching materials for the same organization.

☞ **Kathryn Bulver** presented a workshop at the annual meeting of the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, entitled "Explorez, Racontez, Inventez" on the use of fairy tales and short stories in the classroom. During the conference, Dr. Bulver ran into several alumni: new father **Rick Cohoon** (FR '04), who is currently teaching French at Charleston high school, was spotted speeding down a hallway on the way to a presentation. **Katie Frankie** (FR '03), who currently teaches French at Mattoon high school, was an enthusiastic and welcome participant at Dr. Bulver's workshop. And Dr. Bulver was also able to quickly catch up with her former Spanish cadet teacher **Troy Walcott** (SP '04) .

On November 4-8, Dr. Bulver spent a long weekend in London, as the guest of a French and Japanese teaching colleague from Murphysboro, Illinois who had won a free weekend trip to the capital. Though brief, the stay was memorable, and filled with as much activity as possible, including a visit to Madame Tussaud's wax museum (where Dr. Bulver mingled with Patrick Stewart and Sara Michelle Gellar....and has the photos to prove it!).

At the end of November, Dr. Bulver took a shorter trip to Chicago, to attend the annual ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) conference, where she gave a 90-minute presentation on poetry in the classroom.

In Celebration of Languages

2005 has been officially delegated "The Year of Languages," an initiative that celebrates the importance of language learning in American education and American life. For more information, including access to the "Year of Languages" product store (where you can buy a spiffy tote bag, among other items); facts on languages around the world; copies of proclamations and endorsements from schools, government and other organizations, visit www.actfl.org and click on "Year of Languages" in the upper right-hand corner.

And just for fun:

One reason why the study of other languages and cultures is important is to help you avoid translation mistakes like the following:

You can probably imagine the difficulty General Motors had selling the Chevy Nova in South America (for those of you whose Spanish is rusty, "no va" means "it doesn't go.") Sales improved after the name was changed to the "Caribe."

An American T-shirt Maker in Miami wanted to take advantage of the Pope's visit by selling T-shirts that proclaimed "I saw the Pope." Unfortunately-- though perhaps not for those with a sense of humour--the T-shirts actually stated "I saw the potato."

Clairol introduced the "Mist Stick," a curling iron, into Germany, only to find that in German, "mist" is slang for manure. Talk about a bad hair day!

Thank You! Merci! ¡Gracias! Danke!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the following alums and friends who made donations to the department's Telefund account and the Foundation during the past year:

Deborah Allen	Eulalee Anderson
Michael Anderson	Louise Bidle
Philip Blair	Brigitte Brown

Cindy Cline	Luella Cooley
Dorothy Cumby	James DeSomer
Kristine Dickerson	Daniel Dickover
Clare Eldredge	Andrea Evans
Janet Evans	Katie Frankie
Paula Freepartner	Lisa Galanes
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Teresa Stanfield	Shawn Swain Hogan
Cynthia Titus	Marion Webb
Judith Wente	Allegra Wilber
George Woodyard	Robert Worthy
James Young	Carole Ziemke

We also want to thank those of you who donated to other special accounts. Unfortunately, due to limitations within the tracking system, we have been unable to obtain a list of those donors. Please be assured that we are very grateful for your donations

Visit us via the Internet

We often wonder what is going on in the lives of our former students, and love to hear from you! Drop us an Email 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 (editor):	cfkmb@eiu.edu
Carlos Amaya:	cfcaa@eiu.edu
Penny Clay:	cfpjc@eiu.edu
Richard Crome:	cfrkc@eiu.edu
Shelley French:	cfsf@eiu.edu
Karl Konrad:	cfkjk1@eiu.edu
Kristin Routt:	cfker@eiu.edu
Don Sundheim:	cflds@eiu.edu
Karen Taylor:	cfklt@eiu.edu
Missa Anderson (Secretary):	csma@eiu.edu

Newsletter 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	Carlos Amaya
Missa Anderson	Shelley French	Stephen Canfield

Keeping in Touch

We want to hear from you!. Please send news and any comments or corrections to Dr. **Kathryn Bulver**, at cfkmb@eiu.edu or by mail (Department of Foreign Languages, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, Illinois 61920).

-Kathryn M. Bulver, Editor