

EIU World Languages & Cultures

The latest happenings from the lower east side of Coleman Hall

In This Issue

New Faces in Coleman

Awards and Achievements

And More!

Please consider making a gift to our Department. Go to <https://www.eiu.edu/giving.php> and choose "Foreign Languages (World Languages and Cultures)" from the dropdown menu.



clockwise from bottom right: Jessica Bradford, Irene Jacobsen, Kristin Routt, Jessica Tindira, Elizabeth Lemus, Carlos Amaya, Christiane Eydt, Vanesa Landrus

Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from your Department of World Languages & Cultures! The fall semester is just around the corner: Move-in Day, Convocation with its excitement for the new academic year, student involvement fairs on the quad, football games in O'Brien stadium, Homecoming, and all the other delights of a fall semester at EIU.

No better time than the cusp of summer and fall to look back at what we've achieved and share these highlights with you.

Enjoy the pictures below from our journey through the year--a collage of snapshots that we hope take you back to your time at EIU!

Message from the Chair

Innovations? Quite a few! We have a new name (Department of World Languages & Cultures), new colleagues, new courses, and exciting new spaces in Coleman Hall that promote diversity and belonging. What has not changed is the dedication and hard work of our faculty and the enthusiasm of our students who work alongside us to promote and celebrate the study of world languages and cultures.

Our graduates. They are making a difference every day in the professions they entered and the communities they serve: as teachers, counselors, translators, IT consultants, bilingual therapists, university admissions specialists, study abroad coordinators, the Peace Corps, commissioned officers in the U.S. military, and more. Some of our recent graduates even ventured abroad again and are currently teaching English in South Korea and France.

Double majors. We opened new paths for our World Language majors to pursue their passion for another major. Favorite combos: Spanish and Communications Disorders & Sciences (CDS), Psychology, Sociology, and Art. French and Political Science. German and Communication Studies and Philosophy. Our World Language Minor has become a favorite among EIU's Elementary Education and CDS majors who love teaching our after school program in world languages in area elementary schools.

Teacher Education. Illinois high schools are in great need of more world language teachers. We are working hard to help fill that need. So we're a part of EIU's new Master of Teaching program that will facilitate licensure for place-bound and nontraditional candidates who have at least 32 hours in their content area. Interested in knowing more? Contact Dr. Daniel Carter, Department of Teaching, Learning & Foundations, djcarter@eiu.edu.

New courses. To meet the demand in EIU's growing College of Health and Human Services we developed a second-semester course, Beginning Spanish for the Health Professions, and—first offered in Spring 2023—a brand-new advanced course: Medical Spanish for Health Care and Allied Fields. In collaboration with the Department of Communication Disorders & Sciences, we are also offering American Sign Language I and II. Students majoring in CDS, Psychology, Special Education, Nursing, and Public Health are drawn to these courses where they develop active communication skills in a professional context.

New faculty and staff. Dr. Jessica Tindira (French) and Dr. Elizabeth Amaya Lemus (Spanish) have done wonderful work in campus and community outreach, also supervising our after-school program. Our new Office Manager, Jessica Bradford, came to us in January 2022. We're sharing her with the Department of Philosophy. Jessica's enthusiasm for all our endeavors is simply contagious!

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- **Faculty and Student Achievements.** Check out our faculty and student accomplishments!
 - **Academic Hubs.** We transformed our old “Foreign Language Lab” into a Latinx & Spanish Language Academic Hub. Down the hall, you will find the Pan Asian & Pacific Islander Academic Hub and the African American & African Diaspora Academic Hub. These exciting new spaces liven up Coleman Hall!
 - **Study Abroad.** Maybe a little later than planned due to the pandemic, over the past year, our students studied in France, Spain, and Chile. This fall our students are heading to Germany, France, Costa Rica, and Spain.
 - **Culture Days.** We have increased our offering of Culture Days (aka mini Globalfest) for high schools to share what we do in a college classroom—and show them where their world language can take them in college and beyond.
 - **Community.** Our after school program in world languages serves 80-100 children annually in Jefferson Elementary School in Charleston and Shiloh School District in Hume, Illinois. Many of our majors and minors serve as English tutors for “Amigos and Friends” and “Zanmi-Yo and Friends” at Newman Catholic Center.
 - **Campus.** There’s always something to celebrate in World Languages. Just come through our hallway sometime! Our language clubs and societies take their passion for languages anywhere they go. Check out EIU Homecoming, Día de los Muertos, or our multilingual “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” reading.

In our next Newsletter, we will add an Alumni page. We would love to write about you! Send us an update on your journey by December 2023 to be included. Come and see us at EIU Homecoming, October 6 and 7, 2023. Check out the pictures from last year. Walk with us in the Homecoming Parade!

Please consider making a gift to our Department. Every single donation makes a difference for our students—students like those pictured in this Newsletter. Your contributions can support study abroad scholarships, student conference travel, student awards, or help make our new hub in Coleman into a home away from home. Go to <https://www.eiu.edu/giving.php>. Choose "Foreign Languages (World Languages and Cultures)" from the dropdown menu.

In gratitude to all our alumni, friends, and donors,

Christiane Eydt-Beebe, Department Chair, ckeydt@eiu.edu

Meet Our French Professor, Dr. Jessica Tindira

I appreciate the chance to teach every level of French at Eastern. Overall, I want my students to make progress toward proficiency in French because knowing another language and its culture opens so many doors. In Beginning French and Intermediate French, I create opportunities for students to use French as they get to know each other and explore aspects of the French-speaking world from food to fashion. Students in my advanced classes interact with each other and with authentic French-language texts from France, Africa and Canada. Watching students find the part of francophone culture that interests them, and helping them find avenues to pursue that passion, are my favorite parts of teaching. By the time a student finishes studying French at Eastern, I want them to feel confident that they can communicate in a culturally appropriate way in any French-speaking country where they travel, study or work.



Jessica Bradford, the Friendliest Smile in Coleman

I have been happy to work as the Office Manager since January 2022. I came to EIU with a strong customer-service background. For students in Coleman, that means home-baked snacks and treat bags in addition to help with their administrative needs. When I'm off campus, I enjoy spending time with my son, a student at Charleston Middle School, both at home and at our summer campsite near Martinsville. I am a passionate fruit, vegetable, and meat canner, and I love to share with friends, students, and co-workers!

Dr. Elizabeth Lemus Joins the Spanish Faculty

I have been a passionate Spanish professor for fourteen years and have had the privilege to teach all levels, including culture and literature. At EIU, I teach first- and second-semester Spanish. In my spare time, I enjoy walks at Lake Charleston and Sister City Park, and cooking traditional food from my home country of El Salvador with family and friends. Making "pupusas" with my students is my favorite activity for class.



Faculty Present at National Conferences 2022–23

Vanesa Landrus presented “Violencia de género y periodismo autobiográfico en *Chicas muertas de Selva Amada*” at the annual conference of MALAS (Midwest Association for Latin American Studies).

Irene Jacobsen presented “Mano a mano: A Modernist Masterpiece” at the National Conference of the Popular Culture Association in San Antonio, Texas. She received a John Bratzel Travel Grant from the PCA.



Jessica Tindira demonstrated “Active Learning with Virtual Reality: Innovative Teaching with Technology” for the EIU Faculty Development and Innovation Center.

Student and Faculty Recognitions

Commencement Speaker December 2022: Diana Argueta (Art & Spanish)



Dr. Kristin Routt delivered a webinar based on her award-winning online course on Cultural Diversity. She was also chosen for a 2023 Student Distinguished Professor Award.

STUDENT AWARDS 2023



Top: Awardees of departmental scholarships. Bottom: Latin American & Latinx Studies Awardees.

AWARDS



Top: Awardees of departmental scholarships 2022. Bottom: RSO Advisor Award 2023, Latin American & Latinx Studies Award 2022, Spanish for teacher education candidate Paulina at ICTFL 2022. Paulina received a “Fund for the Future” award.

DISTINGUISHED SENIORS 2022

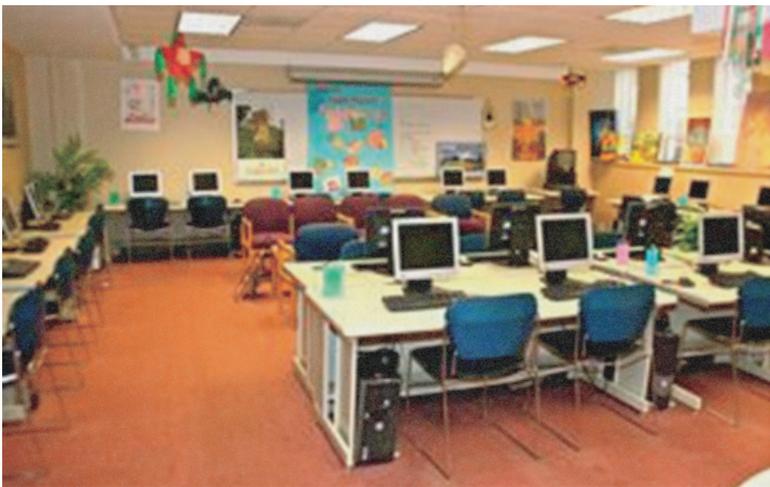


Maria (Spanish), Chavionne (Spanish), Khristopher (German), Paul (German)

Visit the Rincón Latino

Introducing our New Latinx & Spanish Language Hub

We have been working hard to foster a campus-wide atmosphere that embraces the many cultures from around the world on our campus. Wondering about our old Foreign Language Lab? In April 2023, we opened our new Rincón Latino, located right in our Department. This is a beautiful and vibrant space where students of all identities build community with each other, faculty, and students from all programs across campus. This space is just one of several cultural hubs to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, so EIU becomes a “home away from home.”



Once upon a time, a computer lab featuring 25 iMacs, VHS and DVD players...



Then it became a COVID-era classroom.

And in 2023 . . .



How did we achieve this? We collaborated with Art and applied for a Student Impact grant to make this beautiful mural a reality. Three Art and Spanish majors submitted design drafts under the direction of Art professor Samantha Tableriou. Finally, in Spring 2023 their hard work came to fruition and the mural was installed in our new Rincón Latino.

A place to celebrate community...



Study, play, practice, or chat
with a tutor...



Study Abroad is Back

Last year, our majors studied in Spain, France, and Chile. This fall, they're heading to Costa Rica, Spain, France, and Germany. Our Department's scholarships and your contributions help make a student's dream to study abroad come true.

Clockwise from top right: Sylvia in Chile; Anna in Salamanca, Spain; Paige in Madrid and Segovia, Spain.



New Faculty Study Abroad in France

Resistance and Revolution in France

Developed by Dr. Jessica Tindira

**EIU FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM
SUMMER 2024**



Resistance and Revolution in France

Whether or not you speak French, this survey of resistance and revolution in modern France is the perfect overview of how history shapes contemporary French culture. Your time during the week will be divided between excursions in Paris and classroom discussions about the French Revolution of 1789, the Resistance in World War II, and the more recent terrorist attacks. On weekends, you will explore Versailles and Normandy to see these pivotal historical sites with your own eyes. To live the history and culture you love, come to Paris with us!

Dates:



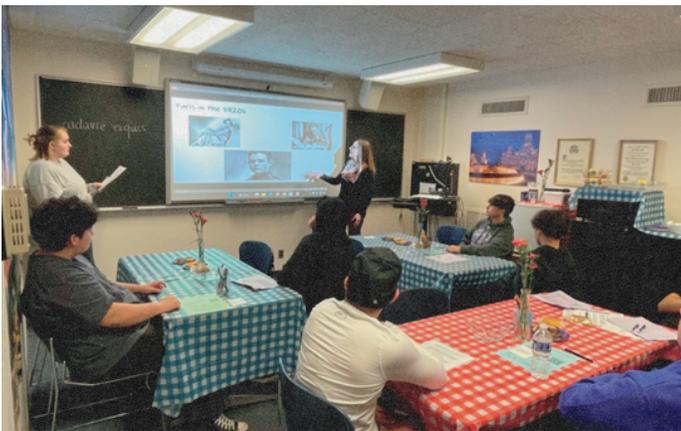
**Program
application and
Scholarship
Deadline:
February 11, 2024**



Faculty Leader:
Jessica Tindira
jltindira@eiu.edu

**WILLIAM V. WEBER PROGRAM IN
STUDY ABROAD**
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
(217)-581-7355 | goabroad@eiu.edu

Outreach with Culture Days



For French café (and Parisian history)



For fútbol (an Argentinian passion)...



And to find out why German is fun AND easy...

High School world language teachers brought their classes to EIU!

Campus and Community

We serve our campus, our neighbors and communities around us. Our students are tutoring newly arrived Spanish and French-speaking community members in English. English lessons take place at “Amigos and Friends” and “Zanmi-Yo and Friends” (a new outreach group for Haitian immigrants) at Newman Catholic Center. On campus, our Spanish, French, and German Clubs have students from all programs across campus join them for cooking events, presentations, film nights, and games. Watch them at a friendly (yet fierce) kickball game to celebrate the end of the semester! See us walk during our EIU Homecoming Parade and celebrate the holidays with us at our multilingual Grinch event in December.



After School Program

Every year, our majors and minors teach a six to seven-week after school program at Jefferson Elementary School in Charleston (4th grade) and Shiloh Elementary School in Hume (1st through 4th grade). Each of our students has their own group of learners and their own classroom. Our faculty prepare our students to develop colorful materials, game-like activities, cultural crafts and presentations. The young learners greatly enjoy practicing their language with each other. And the snacks we bring.

After School Program



Our students present their approach to teaching at EIU's annual Student Research and Creative Discovery Conference.

"Amigos and Friends" and "Zanmi-Yo"



**TEACH / TUTOR
ENGLISH AS A
SECOND
LANGUAGE!**

**JOIN AMIGOS, ZANMI-YO,
& FRIENDS!**

Flexible class times (morning, afternoon,
and night)

Orientation on Tuesday,
Sept. 6th at 10 pm!

NEWMAN IS LOCATED ACROSS THE
STREET FROM LAWSON & ANDREWS.

For more information contact
Jonny.jgcoffin@eiu.edu

FALL 2022



*At Newman Catholic
Center, our students tutor
newly arrived area
residents who do not
speak English.*

LANGUAGE CLUB FUN



Clockwise from top left: Students guided by faculty make Salvadoran pupusas, aguas frescas, French crêpes for La Chandeleur.

MORE LANGUAGE CLUB FUN



Clockwise from top left: Students enjoy making German Schnitzel, Rotkraut and Knödel...Or just a Bratwurst from Aldi... and other crafts in the Rincón Latino.

MORE LANGUAGE CLUB FUN



Clockwise from top left: A spring activity for German students, and one for Spanish students, fundraising outside Coleman, Spanish Club end-of-year kickball team, French and German kickball team.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS



Our students are the very best ambassadors we could wish for. They work hand in hand with us to promote World Languages!

Holiday Celebrations World Language Style



*Día de los
Muertos Gala
2023*

Ofrenda Competition



Annual Multilingual Grinch Reading



Make a Cindy Lou Who corn
husk doll...



We're part of Doudna's annual
Holidayfest! In 2022, our
students read in Spanish,
French, German, Japanese
and Polish. Make a Grinch
ornament and fill your German
Nikolaus Boot (left)...



Christmas posadas



The Spanish Club and Spanish Honor Society rehearsed then caroled their way through campus with the *posadas*.

JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING 2023!



As has become a tradition now, we drive and walk in the parade. We also compete in EIU's "Deck the Halls" contest--thanks to the joint creative forces of Jessica Bradford (Office Manager), Cricut maker extraordinaire Kristin Routt, and our students!

HOMECOMING





Our December 2022 and May 2023 Graduates

December 2022

Diana (Art & Spanish;
Commencement Speaker)
Paul (German & Philosophy;
Distinguished Senior)
Zach (French, Teacher Education)

May 2023

Brianna (Criminology/Sociology &
Spanish)
Giselle (Spanish & Psychology)
Katie (Spanish)
Kevin (French; Commissioned Officer,
Second Lieutenant)
Kristina (CDS & Spanish)
Maria (Spanish & CDS)



Our May 2022 Graduates

Andrew (French, Teacher Education)

Chavionne (Psychology & Spanish; Distinguished Senior)

Dani (French)

Daniela (Spanish, Teacher Education; Livingston C. Lord Scholar)

Keegan (Political Science & French)

Khristopher (German & Communication Studies; Distinguished Senior)

Maria (Communication Studies & Spanish; Distinguished Senior)

Ta'keya (Spanish)

Veronica (Spanish)

Not pictured: Liz (Spanish)

**World Languages
& Cultures** 
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™