Welcome to the PSU Department of Modern Languages & Literatures Newsletter. With the present volume, we are changing the time span covered from academic year to calendar year. The current volume refers to events that unfolded between January and December of 2011. These are exciting times for the Department. Strong enrollments in Chinese, French, Korean, Russian, and Spanish demonstrate that Gorillas are increasingly aware of the importance of achieving proficiency in one or more foreign languages as our students combine their language study with an impressive variety of other disciplines. I hope you will enjoy reading about our students, alumni, and faculty and I invite you to share your own experiences with us. If you have a moment, drop me an email (jberry-b@pittstate.edu) with your news, travel, or memories of the department. We would be delighted to hear from you. As always, if your travels bring you to Pittsburg and PSU, please come by for a visit, or visit us in cyberspace at http://www.pittstate.edu/department/languages/ and at http://www.facebook.com/PSUMLL for news on programs and activities.

Meet the Faculty

Judy Berry-Bravo, Chair, University Professor of Spanish and Portuguese
Megan Corrigan, Lecturer of Russian
Kathy Dyer, Administrative Specialist
Myriam Krepps, Associate Professor of French
Hung-Ying (Karen) Liu, Graduate Teaching Assistant in Chinese
Monte McFerron, Lecturer of Spanish
Grant Moss, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese
Chun Sik (Michael) Ohm, Graduate Teaching Assistant in Korean
Bert Patrick, Professor of Spanish
Eric Rojas, Assistant Professor of Spanish
Roberta Shilane, Lecturer of Spanish
Brett Smith, Lecturer of Spanish
Faculty News 2011

Publications


**Myriam Krepps** published “French Identity, French Heroes: From Vercingétorix to Vatel” in the 35th European Studies Conference 2010 proceedings (Online publication only).

Professional Activities

**Judy Berry-Bravo** attended the International Conference on Learning and Higher Education Administration held in Nashville, May 25-27, 2011. She also serves as the on-call translator for Pitsco Education headquartered in Pittsburg. She serves on the Board of Editors for two journals: *Revista de Ciencias Sociales* and *The Midwest Quarterly: A Journal of Contemporary Thought*.

**Myriam Krepps** presented at the International Conference for Academic Disciplines, in Toronto, Canada, offered a poster sesión at the Southwest Regional Conference of the American Council of Education in Joplin, Missouri, and spoke at the 36th European Studies Conference, in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Monte McFerron** went to conference workshops at the AATSP (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese) National Conference in Washington D.C. Monte shared his knowledge with the Kansas Sunflower Chapter of the AATSP at the Kansas World Language Association conference in November.

**Grant Moss** attended the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) workshop in San Diego, California in August 2011. He is currently working toward certification as a tester for the association. He also gave presentations at the 9th annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities and at the 9th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education in January 2011.

**Bert Patrick** delivered a presentation on Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar’s film *Hable con ella* entitled “Male Friendship in Almodóvar’s *Hable con ella*” at the European Studies Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. He also served as chair for another panel of presentations entitled *Views on Contemporary Spanish Literature*. 
Language Clubs

French Club

The French Club meets each month; one of the highlights is the celebration of National French Week in November. The club strives to immerse itself as much as possible in French culture; participants do so as they go to a French-style dinner at local eating establishments, collaborate with the Pittsburg High School French Club, raise funds for events, and sponsor the weekly French Table. Year after year, the PHS French Club coordinator, Christine Colyer, invites the PSU French Club to join their Mardi Gras extravaganza. Every spring semester ends with an outdoor meal, Dîner sur l’herbe, where the club elects new officers for the next academic year.

Spanish Club

Clint Hayes (Spanish Club President) and Kylie Klenke (Spanish Club Vice President) organized a Piñata-making activity in the month of October for el día de los muertos. Students made various piñatas. The club also participated in a “make-your-own-guacamole fest” in September. Mindi Moss taught students how to make their very own version. Each participant smashed his/her own avocado, added spices, dipped chips in and ate!

Back (left to right): Caroline Barto (Secretary); Molly Cain (co-VP); Isabella Ononye Obiajuluo (President); Rita Lin.

Front (left to right): Dr. Myriam Krepps (MLL, Associate Professor of French and French Club Advisor); Emily Hauser (co-VP); Ching-Wen Ho; Elizabeth Rix.

An unfinished piñata at the Spanish Club’s Día de los muertos celebration in October.
Current Students

Spain 2011 Study Abroad

Sixteen students (fifteen PSU students and one student from Newman University) joined Dr. Grant Moss as they studied at the University of Alicante in Alicante, Spain (June 3rd - July 2nd). The students were: Kristal Arana Leo, Christine Barragree, Danielle Davis, Megan Day, Jenna Duesi, Tyler Edwards, Michelle Gorges, Kristan Herrera, Lauren Hiatt, Karrin Johnson, Gabriel Jordan, Rex Kritikos, Jeanine Kunshek, Whitney Southard, Karen Steele, and Makala Tullis. Students stayed with local alicantino families and studied from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the University of Alicante's Centro Superior de Idiomas. Every Tuesday and Thursday, students also met with Dr. Moss. Afternoons were left open for organized or improvisational activities such as learning how to windsurf or swimming in the Mediterranean Sea. Other cultural endeavors consisted of a tour of the city of Alicante (including the Castillo de Santa Bárbara, a castle that overlooks the Mediterranean), a weekend trip to the city of Granada (the highlight was la Alhambra, a Moorish Palace), a bullfight in La plaza de toros, and a celebration of the local festival, Les fogueres. Students came into contact with the Spanish people firsthand; they improved their linguistic skills and enhanced their cultural perspective. Their experience in Spain will provide them with a more international outlook and springboard them into their future careers.

Costa Rica 2011 Study Abroad

From December 26th, 2010 to January 15th, 2011, eleven students studied abroad in Costa Rica. Brett Smith, Instructor of Spanish, led the trip. Students attended a private language school and lived with host families to learn the Spanish language and Costa Rican culture. In addition to making trips to the rain forest, cloud forest, volcanoes, museums, and the beach, the students took classes Monday through Friday from 8:00-12:00. Students had time to explore the culture and spend time with their host families. Students experienced birthday parties with their families, learned about cultural differences, and enjoyed the New Year through the eyes of a different culture.
**Individual Study Abroad**

Molly Cain and Emily Hauser studied at the Université de Reims, France.

Taylor Jordan Munroe and Benjamin Zumwalt studied at Hanyang University in Seoul, Korea.

Steve Whitson studied at Universidad de Málaga, Spain.

**Record Number Attend Annual Banquet**

On Sunday, May 1, 2011, one hundred and eighty-four students, friends, and family gathered at the Annual Modern Languages and Literatures Banquet and Alpha Mu Gamma Initiation held in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom of the Overman Student Center. Faculty presented awards to seniors, scholarship recipients, study abroad participants, conversation partners, tutors, language club officers, and office assistants. Students from novice to intermediate to advanced levels received meritorious achievement awards to recognize their accomplishments. Liz Kester and Kozdo Edem Depke were named Outstanding Graduating Seniors in Spanish and French. Molly Cain, a future teacher of French, was awarded the Brett Carlson Scholarship.

**Mandarin Chinese Courses Added**

PSU was the recipient of a two-year Allex Foundation grant starting Fall 2011. The Foundation’s Teaching Associate Program in Chinese enables post-secondary institutions to begin or maintain a high quality Chinese language program by providing them with professionally trained, native Chinese instructors who teach in exchange for tuition waivers to pursue a master’s degree.

**Other news**

Vincent Juliano (Spanish and Nursing, ’11) was named Outstanding Senior at Pittsburg State University. As a bilingual registered nurse, Vinnie got multiple job offers. He opted for Freeman Health System in Joplin.

Patrick Stoddart, a 2010 graduate of Lee’s Summit and now a double major in Spanish and Computer Information Systems at PSU, is a self-taught programmer. He created RED, among the first to combine text messaging, email alerts and event scheduling. He is working to build his company, Revdel, and says, "even if RED doesn't reach my goals, it has enabled me to be more business-minded. It's been a learning experience. It's taught me so much to just jump right in and do it."
The Cathedral in Salamanca, Spain

Alumni News

Nathan Arnold (French, ‘02 and Spanish, ’01) is Purchasing Manager for Cereal Grains, Fibers, and Vegetable Derivatives at Royal Canin, a division of Mars, Inc., in Kansas City.

Mark Birmingham (Spanish and Biology, ‘01) acts as a podiatric surgeon with the North Shore Podiatry Group in the Greater Chicago area. He enjoys spending time with his family, running, and traveling.

Rebecca Bryon (Spanish and Biology, ‘10) currently studies at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Becca won the Brett Carlson Scholarship in 2009.

Christy Davis (French and Psychology, 01) lives in Paris where she is a bilingual personal assistant at DTZ Jean Thouard which provides property advisory services worldwide.

Lorie Duncan (Spanish, ’09) teaches middle-school students at Magdalen Catholic School in Wichita. Lorie was the 2008 winner of the Brett Carlson Scholarship which helped her study abroad at the Universidad de Salamanca.

April Edwards (Spanish, ‘10) works at Louisburg High School. To help her prepare for that role, April did a study abroad at Universidad de Salamanca in Summer 2009.

Harry Imbeau (French and Communication, ’03) is Director of International Student and Scholar Services at Emporia State University. While a student at PSU, Harry did a study abroad at Université de Reims.

Armando Johnson (Spanish, ’97) taught Spanish at Parsons High School and Labette Community College until Fall 2011 when he became Head Basketball Coach at Springfield Central High School in Missouri.

Sarah Maxton (Spanish, ’07) is a Special Education teacher in Southeast Kansas.

Mary Helen McCloud (French and Music, ’06), French teacher at Field Kindley High in Coffeyville, Kan., says her students celebrate Mardi Gras in style, thanks to the generosity of the folks in Louisiana: “They have sent us beads and tokens, king cakes and garlands, sweatshirts and cups, and more. Each year, we give our traditional parade, snaking through the halls to the beat of our marching band drummers.”

Anita McDaniel, Spanish teacher at Columbus High School will retire this year. Anita graduated from Pittsburg State in 1969. Her first Spanish position was at
Altamont High School in 1971. She taught Spanish and French there for the next thirty one years. In 2002, she took a similar position at Columbus High School where she has enjoyed teaching on a block schedule for the past decade.

**Connor Phillips** (Spanish, ’10) in an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) interpreter at Roosevelt Middle School and Field Kindley High School in Coffeyville. Connor has found the experiences gained during his study abroad trip to Paraguay to be very useful.

**Crystal Pihl** (Spanish and International Studies, ’09) is the Media and Marketing Director at MPB Agency/Advocate for Victims/Survivors of Sex-Trafficking in Greater New York City area. She is also a freelance photographer.

**Brett Shamblin** (Spanish, ’08) is Assistant Director of Development/Annual Funds at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Although **Melinda Velásquez** (Spanish, ’08) has loved teaching Spanish and English, her career recently took another turn. During Summer 2011, just before Melinda’s first grandchild was born, she traveled to North Africa with Pioneer Bible Translators in Dallas, Texas. On the trip, she met her teammates with the organization, got familiar with her future home, and watched as the newest country in Africa seceded from the north. Seeing the people and the land left her no doubt about her decision. Melinda relocated to Dallas to finish her training before she moves to Africa next summer.

**Caitlin Veteto** (French, International Business, ’10) is Closing & Control Associate, Financial Shared Services, at Conoco Phillips in Tulsa.

**Lindsey Watson** (French, Political Science, International Studies, ’04) works as an attorney at Emerson Electric Company in the Greater St. Louis area.

**Rachel Wymore** (Spanish, ’10) is a migrant student support specialist at Roosevelt Middle School and Field Kindley High School in Coffeyville. Rachel’s study abroad experiences in Paraguay and Spain have proven invaluable for her career.

---

**Donate to Modern Languages and Literatures**

I would like to contribute to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures in the amount of $___________. Make checks payable to: PSU Foundation; on memo line write Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

Mail to: Pittsburg State University, Attn: Judy Berry-Bravo, Chair, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, 1701 South Broadway, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762

If you would like more information on how to set up an endowment to make scholarships available to students in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, please contact Dr. Judy Berry-Bravo at jberry-b@pittstate.edu or 620-235-4708.
The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures within the College of Arts and Sciences offers a thorough program of study oriented to the individual. Active and interested faculty members work closely with students to focus on areas of interest in Chinese, French, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Faculty members have studied, done research or resided in countries where those languages are spoken. Students enjoy opportunities to learn through the most modern and effective methods and techniques. Language clubs and native speakers who act as conversation partners give students further opportunities for success.

Editors

Dr. Grant Moss (Editor) and Mr. Monte McFerron (Assistant Editor) welcome your stories, successes, and triumphs for future issues of Babel-on. Please contact us at gmoss@pittstate.edu with any comments or suggestions.