

Murray State University

Department of Modern Languages

December 2006

Message from the Department Chair

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Last year, 2005, was officially designated by Congress as the Year of Languages. This year, 2006, has been designated as the Year of Study Abroad. Though U.S. legislators may have been motivated by September 11th to encourage young Americans to study languages—especially Chinese, Arabic, and other widely-spoken languages in the world but little-known in the U.S.—we, in the department of Modern Languages, make EVERY year the year of languages and study abroad. In significant ways, we are all citizens of the world, which is a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-religious entity--whether we choose to recognize that fact or not. In a global system that is so highly inter-connected and inter-dependent, where products and services we use daily come to us from all parts of the globe and pass through many hands and many languages, we realize that we are part of a much wider whole. Because of this, we are all implicated in economic, political, and ethical dilemmas of a scope much wider than the national. As former South African President, F.W. de Klerk, said when he visited campus in 2005, America cannot afford to be unilateral anymore. Neither can we afford to be monocultural or monolingual: "The challenge for the international community will be to articulate, entrench, and promote respect for the rights of communities and to devise ground rules for harmonious co-existence."

Fortunately, the young people we see every day in our classes realize this and are taking on the challenge to move beyond the parameters of just one way of speaking, one way of seeing. Today, more students are taking on the challenge of intensively studying another language, and more of them—like world citizens everywhere--are studying two languages. More of our students are studying abroad, too. They are not only going for a summer experience of five weeks, but are signing up in record numbers for semester study abroad programs—a commitment of time and money they are willing to make toward what they consider to be a life-transforming experience. Despite all the fancy technology we use in our classrooms, despite the case studies and the interview projects we have them do, nothing replaces an individual's actual life experience. Nothing can change a person faster than the unique encounters he or she has with a new social environment other than the one the person grew up in.

We invite everyone to use this year to start a new language, to come to our international film series, or travel to another country. Open yourself up to a new experience and see the world with new eyes!

Janice Morgan



Announcements

Welcome to Zaira Garcia

The Department welcomes Zaira Garcia as Lecturer for 2006-2007 academic year. She will be teaching three Spanish 101 courses and one Spanish 201 course.

Saludos de Zaira

Saludos! My name is Zaira Garcia. I am originally from Mexico. I was born in Morelia, the capital of the providence of Michoacan, a city of over 1 million people. Morelia is located in the central region of Mexico. It is a beautiful city of Spanish colonial architecture, rich of history, culture, and traditions. I studied at and graduated from the *Universidad Vasco de Quiroga*, earning a degree in Graphic Design.

Also, I studied English in a private institution for several years where I learned the language and later on taught it. I would have never imagined that learning a second language would be of such a great help and importance in my life. It has definitely been one of the best investments in time and effort that I have made.

During the past five years I have worked for the Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS), a consortium of 19 colleges and universities dedicated to provide quality international education. KIIS coordinates several study abroad programs in my home city where I had the opportunity to teach Spanish and also hosted some students in my house.

I came to the United States last fall 2005 to obtain a Master's degree in TESOL at Murray State University. I am enjoying my experience as an international student very much. It is allowing me to enrich my education, to make new friends and to learn more about other cultures. Furthermore, I am pleased to be able to teach Spanish for the first time in the United States during this 2006 – 2007 academic year. I am thrilled about it!



Above: Zaira Garcia.
At right: University of San Nicolas de Hidalgo in the city of Morelia in Michoacan, Mexico



Catedral de Morelia
Morelia, Mexico



Grimes Awarded KWLA Lifetime Achievement Award

**FOND FAREWELL AND
BEST WISHES TO
DR. MILTON GRIMES
FROM ALL YOUR
FRIENDS AND
COLLEAGUES HERE AT
THE MODERN
LANGUAGE
DEPARTMENT!**

Kentucky World Language Association (KWLA), an organization dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction has awarded Murray State University's Assistant Executive Director of the Kentucky Institute for International Studies, Dr. J. Milton Grimes, the impressive KWLA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Each year KWLA recognizes individuals, businesses or other organizations that have made a significant contribution to the profession. Dr. Grimes has been singled out for his creating of the Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS), thereby providing thousands of students the opportunity to study abroad and experience a foreign culture. KWLA's President-elect, Thomas Sauer, has also complemented him for leading "KIIS with imagination, professionalism, and verve."

This award comes just prior to Dr. Milton's departure from MSU to take on the position of Director of International Studies with the Tennessee Board of Regents system of colleges and universities. We here at Murray State will be sad to see Dr. Milton leave our institution, but we are glad to have had his innovative presence for so long.



Dr. Grimes and Fiona at MSU's 2006 Homecoming Tent City.

Dear Colleagues,

After working with many of you since I came to Murray State University in the fall of 1972, I have retired from my position with the Department of Modern Languages and have accepted a position with the Tennessee Board of Regents system of colleges and universities beginning in November as the Director of International Studies.

Despite a few bumps in the road, my tenure working at MSU and with many of you has been extremely rewarding and I treasure so many experiences and friendships which I have gained. Some of you have been in my classes and you have my condolences. Some of you have been part of our western Kentucky language teachers organization (in the deep dark past) where we had fun exchanging ideas, complaining about our jobs and other valuable things. Some of you have participated in KIIS programs or recommended to some of your students to participate in them, and even more of you have gone to Mexico with TOI and KIIS. All of this has been a pleasure and extremely gratifying to me personally and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this experience both recently and in the past.

*All the best to all of you,
Milton Grimes*

Post-Graduate Opportunity

Spanish teachers are invited to participate in a Teacher Quality Institute program in Mexico City and Morelia, Mexico during the first two weeks of June 2007. The program includes travel, home-stays with a local family, classes at the KIIS center in Morelia, and excursions. Most expenses are covered, including 3 hours of graduate education.

For more information on this program, please contact dennis.buckner@coe.murraystate.edu or cindy.thresher@coe.murraystate.edu.

Be A World Language Teacher And Go To College For Free

Teachers who work full-time in a certified Kentucky public or private nonprofit school receive:

- Interest forgiveness for each year of service for all teachers working full-time in Kentucky
- Up to 20% original principal forgiveness for minority teachers and certified teachers of Foreign Language.



Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority



For more information:

Call 888.678.GOAL (4625) for **BEST IN CLASS** Program

or go online to

www.studentloanpeople.com

New Study Abroad Scholarship!

In an expanded effort to support study abroad, we have created a new scholarship prize, which can be used for any KIIS program in a non-English speaking country. The scholarship prize is tied in with our Cinema International Essay contest, for which we are offering two \$1,000 study abroad scholarships.

Our international film series, running for twenty years now, fully complements our efforts to create cross-cultural awareness on the Murray State campus. When students watch films in our series, they get an insight on social issues from a different window of the world community. How was capital punishment viewed in France in the 19th century? How does contemporary Spain view women's rights within marriage? What are the social responsibilities of multi-national corporations to the social communities within which they operate? These are but some of the questions posed by the films we have shown just this fall semester.

The series runs most every weekend on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the Curris Center Theatre at 7:30 p.m. The fall series is nearly over; the spring series starts again with the new semester. The deadline for the essay contest is December 1st. Contact the Department of Modern Languages for details.

We would like to thank the Alumni for their financial support in our many endeavors. Your charitable donations are greatly appreciated. Without your continued support programs such as this Study Abroad Scholarship would not be possible. To make a contribution directly to the Cinema International Essay Scholarship please contact the Modern Language Department at (270) 809-2501.

Faculty News

Thérèse Saint Paul Assistant Professor of French

I published several articles on how to teach cultural and bio-diversity, as well as environmental issues, in French courses, most prominently "French for Green Business" [Matters of Perspective Culture, Communication & Commerce](#), for which I received the Outstanding Presentation Award in May 2006 at Georgia Tech University in Atlanta for presenting.

(2006) Seminars in Paris: 2 courses in Paris, France (KIIS). *Advanced French conversation/composition* and *Advanced Civilization* (Paris, locus of memory)

Yoko Hatakeyama Senior Lecturer - Japanese

In the Spring of 2006, I advised two of my students to go to Japan on the JET program, which is sponsored by the Japanese government. Fortunately, both of them (Janitha Robinson and Sean Mitchuson) were accepted to the program and they are currently teaching English at public middle schools in Hiroshima and Nagano respectively.

In the summer of 2006, I directed my 7th 5-week KIIS (Kentucky Institute for International Studies) Summer Study Abroad in Japan. Twenty-two students from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Florida participated in the program and lived, studied, and went on excursions together. This year's summer weather in Japan was very unstable, raining a lot. Several students caught cold, however, all twenty-two students met the cross-cultural challenges of study in Japan and did a good job in their courses.

Leon Bodevin Professor of Spanish

During the course of the past year my article "El naturalismo pictórico de Juan Solo de José Ortega Munilla" was published by the Catholic University of Puerto Rico. Also, my review of the book *Vicente Blassco Ibanez: An annotated Bibliography* by Christopher L Anderson and Paul C. Smith was published in the periodical *Hispania*.

Meg Brown Professor of German and Spanish

I have been directing the KIIS-Bregenz Program since 1996 and enjoyed doing so again this past summer. Thirteen students from Murray State went along on the program, including 6 from the GER 202 class. One student arranged to go on a practice ride with the fire department and remains in contact with several Bregenz firemen.

Also, my paper, "Robert Schneider's *Brother of Sleep: Lost--and Found--in Translation*" was presented at the Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages & Literatures in Statesboro, Georgia, in April 2006.

Reika Ebert Assistant Professor - German

As in most summers, I went to teach with a KIIS study abroad program. This time, I taught in Bregenz, Austria, a small town that offers fabulous ice cream parlors, sunsets right into Lake Constance, and beautiful hiking up into mountains. – Also, this past August, my latest article on a contemporary author was published. The title is "'We just Belong at our Desk': Troublesome Locales of a Jewish-German Existence in Barbara Honigmann's *Damals dann und danach*."



Students' Corner

Japan Exchange & Teaching Program

I consider my experiences with the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program to be among the most valuable in my life. There are ways of viewing the world, other cultures, and even my own American culture that would have been completely unavailable to me without my years spent living abroad. While there are a multitude of lessons that I learned during those three years in Japan, perhaps the most significant is the universal nature of *human* culture.

Oftentimes when examining cultures besides our own, it is all too easy to observe the differences and peculiarities of each, and let those things that we share as members of humanity go unmentioned. It's equally easy to take issue with those peculiarities while ignoring similarly bizarre facets of our own native culture. We should all remember that recognizing our sameness is just as important as seeing our differences, and that no culture is above scrutiny. Understanding and appreciating our underlying human culture is where empathy, trust, cooperation and a true sense of community begin—and with them, hope for a global future.

- Ches Clark



Studying in Austria



This past summer, I studied in Bregenz, Austria through the KIIS program. I wanted to further my skills in German through a study abroad experience and I found the Bregenz program to be very appealing. Enrolling in two upper-level German courses while I was in Bregenz has been the single most defining aspect of my language development. There is no substitute for studying a language in a country where it is native. My experience in Bregenz was so impacting that it propelled me to become a German language major.

The travel opportunities while studying in this program also proved to be extremely beneficial. My travels allowed me to see and experience different cultures, which in turn enabled me to gain a deeper understanding and respect for those cultures. Living with a host was an essential facet in my cultural exposure. I learned things studying and living Bregenz that I would never have known, had I not traveled abroad. I am extremely grateful for having this opportunity and through it I have furthered myself not only as a student, but as an individual.

- Laurie LeCompte

A Practicum Experience

During a recent practicum experience in a local high school Spanish classroom, I was asked to teach a vocabulary section on foods. While a year ago I would have had little to add to this simple lesson, my experience studying abroad in Spain enabled me to offer students further insight into the language and culture through my personal experiences. Studying abroad has allowed me to do this in many other facets of my life. For example, I have become more confident in speaking Spanish. Also, traveling and learning to function everyday in a foreign country has made me a more independent person. My views of the world and even of my own country have been affected by my immersion into the Spanish culture. In these and in many other ways, I continue to benefit from my study abroad experience in Spain.

- Chelsea Vandiver



KIIS Paris I Program

As a Junior Vocal Performance major and French minor I attended the KIIS Paris I program Summer 2006. While there, I took two courses, taught by Dr. Wendy Yoder and Dr. Therese Saint-Paul.

The language immersion provided by studying abroad is an invaluable experience for efficiently promoting the fluency of a language. By venturing out and speaking with locals, I was able to expand my proficiency with the language. I also had the opportunity to meet interesting people. I even met a very interesting artist while visiting the Louvre. Through speaking with one of my new acquaintances, I began to understand the French extreme "love to live" view on life.

Aside from speech, being exposed to the culture and native people provides an understanding and appreciation for their lives and philosophies on living.

In our global society of the future, it will be imperative that we are able to understand others, not just in speech but also in culture. It will be important that we are able to keep open minds and really try to fathom one another's views with respect. Study abroad is a key element to this, and what better time then while we are still young and have the chance to travel?
- Arwen Gaddis



Alpha Mu Gamma



Alpha Mu Gamma has seen growth this year, with twenty-nine new members who were inducted on November 13 (picture on left). Dr. Michael Basile, Director of the Institute for International Studies, will deliver our keynote presentation on cultural diversity. This year, we will also be collecting canned goods at the induction for donation to Needline.

In October, our annual Study Abroad Speak Out was very successful, with over fifty people in attendance. We are very appreciative to each of our speakers for their contribution: Laurie LeCompte, Jayson Spain, Jenni Siler, John Clayton, Jenny Naes, Tracy Nearhoof, Chelsea Vandiver, Amber Shields, Arwen Gaddis, and Chelsea Taylor. In addition to hosting our annual Career Road Map session and assisting with the Foreign Language Festival, we are working to organize a weekend trip for Alpha Mu Gamma, either to a conference on teaching modern languages or a cultural event, during the spring semester.

This year's officers are: Katie Oller, President; Huichen Hung, Vice President; Philadelphia Bruss, Secretary; and Karissa Ramey, Treasurer. We would like to thank all of our Modern Language faculty and staff for their continual support, and especially Dr. Janice Morgan, our faculty advisor, for her dedication to this organization.
- Katie Oller

ICALA

The International Cultures and Language Association has had a wonderful semester thus far! Our joint fundraiser with the Department of Modern Languages at Tent City during Murray State's Homecoming raised a great deal of money for the Department and for our scholarship fund!

Oktoberfest was also a huge success, this year we raised more money than ever before from the event and had a wonderful afternoon eating and talking together. We are excited about those events yet to come and look forward to putting on other events this semester and next Spring.

Of course, our Cinco de Mayo and Mardi Gras celebrations are always very exciting for us! We have worked a great deal this semester on becoming more visible on campus this year and have participated in Quad Day and also have nominated four lovely ladies for the Miss Murray State Scholarship Pageant. We are also continuing popcorn and drink sales at Cinema International.
-Lauren Hines

We are so proud of our Graduates! Here are just a few and where they are now.

Teresa Underhill Wallace—is teaching German and English at Lone Oak High School in Paducah. The German program she created has been growing by leaps and bounds, and she was recognized in the national on-line publication “Germany in Class.”

Michael Schroeder-- worked for 5 years for an Austrian computer company north of Salzburg. Last summer he married his Austrian girlfriend and will start graduate school in Germany soon.

Deanna Futrell-- graduated 2006 and is now teaching Spanish at Murray High.

Kelly Seely-- taught both German and English as a Second Language in Taiwan with plans to go to Germany to teach ESL.

Lance Lee—is pursuing his Ph.D. in Spanish at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Catherine Aubee-- is now working in the office of the Kentucky Institute for International Studies.

Phillip Wright-- begins graduate school in Computer Science at the University of Hannover in Germany this fall.

Tera Rica Murdock-- is in law school at Vanderbilt University.

Jackelyn Vargas-- is teaching English as a Second Language in Korea.

Brandi Townsend-- is in graduate school in history/Latin American Studies at the University on New Mexico.

Nathan Smith-- after spending some time in Germany through a University of Kentucky program, is planning to pursue a masters in German from UK.

Amanda Berens Gilliland-- is teaching Spanish at Fulton County High School.

Jason Baumer-- received his masters degree and is now pursuing his doctoral degree in German at Purdue University.

Laura Nixon Enzendorfer-- is married to Thomas Enzendorfer from Vienna and is the CEO of Vienna International Exchange Corp., headquartered in Vienna and Atlanta.

Charles Hiter – graduated with a BA in French in 1996 and is now an officer serving in Kuwait and studying International Policy and Franch/Arabic connections in the Middle East.

Upcoming Events

December 22 - January 1, 2007	Holiday Break - University closed
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday – University closed
February 20	Mardi Gras
March 8	Foreign Language Festival
March 19 – 23	Spring Break – University closed
May 4	Last day of classes
May 4	Cinco de Mayo Celebration
May 11	Last day of exams
May 12	Commencement