

# FLL *newsletter*

Fall 2004  
Vol. 9, No. 1

Keeping in touch with the Alumni, Students, Friends and Faculty of  
the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures of Iowa State University

## New option available for second majors in FLL

What might it be like to practice engineering or business in China, France, Germany, Mexico, or Russia? How do diverse cultures shape professional practice in engineering or international business? FLL's new Languages and Cultures for Professions (LCP) program helps students to answer these questions by preparing them for leadership positions in a global context.

Three years ago, faculty in FLL initiated discussions with the Colleges of Engineering, Business, and Agriculture in order to develop a second-major option in LCP. In April 2002, FLL organized a colloquium to raise consciousness regarding languages and professions at ISU. "Languages and Cultures for Professions: Internationalizing the Curriculum" assembled national and international experts from international engineering, business, and agriculture on campus. As a result of this effort, FLL established formal second major programs with the Colleges of Engineering in 2003 and Business in 2004.

In April of 2004, the department received notification that it had received a major grant from the U.S. Department



Mark Rectanus and Dawn Bratsch-Prince

of Education (Title VI-A UISFL) to fund the LCP curricular initiative for the period 2004-2006. The grant will support curricula which integrate extensive training in languages and cultures with professional curricula in order to foster the global literacy of ISU students.

Today, students in the LCP option can take courses that have been designed to meet the demands of professionals in a global marketplace. These include existing languages courses in "Business and Professions," new courses on contemporary society and culture (e.g., "France Today," "Germany Today," "Latin America Today," or "Russia Today") as well as a wide range of courses in language and civilization. FLL is also developing exciting study abroad and internship opportunities for LCP students. Graduates will be proficient in their language area and will have had experience living and working in another culture. The response to the program by global corporations such as Cargill and Sauer-Danfoss has also been very

positive.

LCP Program Director, Mark Rectanus, says, "If our students want to compete globally, they need a second language and international experience. We in FLL strongly believe that students also need to use a language within the context of the culture, which is embedded in the language. You can never truly understand the culture unless you speak the language."

Amy Swanson, a 2004 Iowa State chemical engineering graduate, agrees. "I knew that being fluent in Spanish would help my chances of finding a job when I graduated," she said. "I eventually hope to either find an engineering job where I can use my Spanish skills in the United States or I would like to move to Spain and find an engineering job." Another 2004 graduate, Andrew Schumacher, who received his degree in mechanical engineering and German, is convinced that his experience working in Germany for John Deere and BMW was a key

### Inside story

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## An update from the department chair

A period of transition is upon us here in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. We continue to participate in a disciplinary shift that entails a broadening of scholarship and curriculum in foreign languages, literatures, and cultures. Collaboration with other disciplines has become the mantra of our faculty as we work to produce critically informed and educated world citizens. Let me point to a few examples:

A new experimental course on Technology, Globalization, and Culture, will be team-taught in Spring 2005 and cross-listed between Foreign Languages and Literatures and Mechanical Engineering – a truly collaborative endeavor for both colleges! A new program offered through our study abroad program in Alicante, Spain is a collaborative effort of Engineering, Business, and Foreign Languages and Literatures. Students will be able to take English-language courses in business and engineering in Alicante in addition to intensive Spanish-language study.

We have experienced a transition among our faculty as well. Judy and Jaime Lacasa retired in May 2004, after some 35 years as professors of Spanish language, literature, and culture at Iowa State. Dawn Stinchcomb, assistant professor of Spanish and Afro-Hispanic studies, also bid goodbye to Iowa State after accepting another position at Purdue. In December 2004, Jim Dow, professor of German, will retire after 30 years of teaching German language, literature, linguistics, and folklore. He will continue on in the department through spring 2005 as he completes a monumental research project on the little documented Cymbrian language. Later this academic year, in May 2005, Bob Bernard, professor of French and Italian, and Ron Nabrotzky, associate professor of German, will retire after long careers at the university. Our next issue of the newsletter shall include a feature on their achievements and future plans. The turnover in our faculty ranks will present us with an exciting challenge as we rebuild.

In an attempt to foster connections between our faculty, current foreign language majors, and departmental alumni, we have instituted an annual alumni award program. Each year we

will make two awards: the **Alumni Professional Achievement Award** recognizes outstanding professional achievement and/or service with an international impact; the **Alumni Educational Achievement Award** recognizes professional achievement in foreign language and/or international education. **Anne Bourdine, Russian '86**, received the Alumni Professional Achievement Award for her international work as a lawyer, and **Gene Larsen, French '74**, received the Alumni Educational Achievement Award, for his long career as an educator and mentor to teachers in the profession. Our awardees spent Friday of Homecoming Week in Pearson Hall meeting and speaking with students and faculty on the value of language study, work and study abroad, and career choices. Their first-hand accounts of life after graduation and satisfying careers delighted students and faculty alike.

If you are inclined to make a difference in the educational experience of a foreign language major, consider making a small contribution to our recently endowed **Walter Chatfield Student Scholarship** fund, named in honor of Walt Chatfield, longtime faculty



member in French, Spanish, and teacher education, who retired in 1998. We would like to increase our endowment so as to support annually study abroad opportunities for our teacher education students.

I encourage you stop by and visit us in Pearson Hall if your travels take you through Ames. Our faculty and students are delighted to visit with you and share memories of the past and an exciting vision for the future!

*Dawn Bratsch-Prince*  
Professor of Spanish and Department  
Chair

## LCP Program provides new option for engineering, business second majors

Continued from page 1

factor in securing his position at Toyota this year. "I learned so much more than just how to speak the language by taking German. I am now working for Toyota and I am positive that I would never have even been considered for the job if I had not had my international experiences."

Most recently, in September 2004, FLL organized a workshop and colloquium (Contemporary Societies in a Global Perspective) at ISU, including a round table discussion on "Globalization, Professions, and Cultures" with experts from ISU's professional colleges, language and culture experts from other institutions, and industry, including: James Bernard (Anson Marston Distinguished Professor of Engineering and former director of the Virtual Reality Applications Center, ISU), Thomas Chacko (Chair, Management

and Marketing, ISU), Bettina Cothran, (German, Georgia Tech), Orlando Kelm, (Portuguese and Spanish, University of Texas, Austin), Richard Seagrave (President-Elect ABET and Former Interim President of ISU) and James D. Waters (Hydraulics and Hydraulic Systems, Caterpillar Inc.).

It has been an exciting three years for the LCP program and we have more plans underway for the future. LCP is off to a great start and has received enthusiastic support from ISU faculty and from industry. If you would like more information on LCP, know a future ISU student who might like to know more, or if you are employed by an organization that might be interested in partnering with the LCP program, contact Mark Rectanus at [mwr@iastate.edu](mailto:mwr@iastate.edu) or visit the LCP web site at: <http://www.language.iastate.edu/home/LCP/LCPWeb/index.htm>.

# Area Studies Programs

Several new area studies programs have been formed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Two of them are directed by FLL faculty.

**The Western European Studies Program, directed by Professor Chad Gasta,** is designed to provide visibility and a sense of community for faculty and students with interests in promoting scholarship, engagement, and discovery in Western Europe. The aim of the program is to further the understanding of Western European society, culture, and politics in the past and present. Above all, we want to raise the visibility of Western European Studies and provide a focus for both faculty and students. Hence, students will find listings of courses, study abroad opportunities as well as upcoming events and activities that may be of interest. Faculty will find resources to encourage collaborative and cross-disciplinary work via fellowships, scholarships, grants, along with scheduled seminars and colloquia here on the Iowa State campus.

Features of the Western European Studies program include a website devoted to the group's collaborative efforts ([http://www.las.iastate.edu/West\\_Euro/home.shtml](http://www.las.iastate.edu/West_Euro/home.shtml)), a list serve,

and on-going small-group discussion about ways in which the program can impact the University's outreach programs, including a list of lectures that interest the wider university community.

With these goals in mind, the Western European Studies Program invited Dr. Joseba Zulaika (Ph.D., Princeton, Cultural Anthropology) who is Director of the Basque Center at the University of Nevada to give a public talk at ISU on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. His talk "Barbarians, Terrorists, Europeans: On the Follies, Fables and Faces of Counterterrorism" addressed the interplay of international terrorism from the perspective of the recent bombings in Madrid, their impact around Europe, and their effect on the United States, as well as how ideology is used in favor of terrorism, and against it.

**The Latin American Studies Program, directed by Professor Kathy Leonard,** was established to promote interest and visibility on a wide range of topics dealing with Latin America on the ISU campus. An advisory committee was formed consisting of students, staff, and faculty, who oversee a list of regional courses available for the secondary undergraduate major in International Studies. In addition, the program's members organize seminars and

colloquia and gather information on fellowships, scholarship, contracts, and grants that have a Latin American focus. The group is now at work on forming a Certificate in Latin American Studies for students who wish to formalize their work in this area.

In keeping with the focus of the program, Giovanna Rivero Santa Cruz, a Bolivian writer, journalist, and professor was invited to speak on campus on Nov. 2. Rivero is an award-winning author who has published two novels in Bolivia and three anthologies of short stories. She spent fall semester at the University of Iowa participating in the International Writers Workshop. During her stay at ISU she visited Spanish classes and gave a presentation in collaboration with Domingo Castilla of the University of Missouri, Columbia, who gave a critical review of her book *Sentir lo oscuro*, which includes photographs by Kathy Leonard.

This information, as well as news about the program's members and links to related sites can be viewed online on the program's website: [http://www.las.iastate.edu/Latin\\_American/home.shtml](http://www.las.iastate.edu/Latin_American/home.shtml).



Aili Mu

## NEH awards Aili Mu grant

Aili Mu, assistant professor of foreign languages and literatures, and two colleagues have been awarded a \$75,000 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant.

Mu, along with Howard Goldblath of Notre Dame University and Julie Chiu of Lingnam University in Hong Kong, will compile a bilingual edition of *An Anthology of Contemporary Chinese Short-short Stories*.

Mu and her colleagues will select 100 representative short-short stories from the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan for the anthology. Selected authors will be interviewed for introductory narratives and the short-short stories will be translated and edited.

Short-short stories are a subgenre of

Chinese fiction about 1500-3000 (Chinese) characters in length. Mu says that in the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan there are literally thousands of journals, magazines, newspapers and web sites that publish short-short stories with circulations in the millions.

"Contemporary Chinese short-short stories are a new literary genre that is sensitive to China's market economy," Mu said. "They reflect what is happening in China at the most fundamental level in the daily experiences of its people. This genre is a literary phenomenon in China and I think it can be explored to look not only at the country's social and economic systems, but popular culture as well."

# New faces in FLL

## Cindy James Secretary in FLL

Cindy James began her career with ISU in 1994 as a contract employee with the State of Iowa working in Des Moines for the Dept of Human Services in Child Support Collections. Cindy transferred to the ISU campus in 1997 working as receptionist and secretary in the Dean's office of the College of Engineering. Cindy joined the FLL department in May 2004 and enjoys working with the faculty and staff very much. Cindy is originally from Chicago, Illinois and enjoys classical music, traveling, visits from family and friends, and wants to learn Spanish.

## Brian Cherer Classical Studies Lecturer

Brian Cherer moved to Ames to accept his first full-time teaching post after graduating with a Ph.D. in Classics from the University of Missouri in December, 2003. He hails from Tucson, AZ, where his wife continues working as an academic librarian at the University of Arizona, while also caring for their three young children (ages 10, 8 and 4). While in Tucson, he worked as a stay-at-home dad, taught Latin at the local community college, and wrote his dissertation, a narratological study of Virgil's *Aeneid*. Since graduating, he has been revising the longest chapter of his dissertation, which essentially aims at establishing a revised typology of different types of narrative discourse. Most recently, he has undertaken a review of the second edition of Irene de Jong's *Narrator's and Focalizers: The Presentation of the Story in the Iliad* (Bristol, 2004), and will be presenting a paper entitled "Narrated Perception and Virgil's 'Subjective Style'" at the 136<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association in Boston in January, 2005. Meanwhile, he enjoys teaching Latin and Classical Mythology at ISU, as well as life in general here in Ames, whose many parks have allowed his dog to rediscover the joys of running



over grass (not cacti) and chasing squirrels (not lizards) all day.

## Karen Hebert Graduate Teaching Assistant in Spanish

Karen Hebert graduated with a B.A. in Spanish from Iowa State. She has an M. A. in Spanish Literature from Florida International University. As a graduate teaching assistant, Karen teaches composition.



## Erik Ladner Spanish Lecturer

Erik Ladner is a new Spanish lecturer who joined the ISU faculty in August, 2004. He received his B.A. in Spanish and French (1995) as well as his M.A. in Spanish (1997) from the University of Northern Iowa. He is currently finishing his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in Modern Spanish Literature, specializing in 20th Century Theater in Spain. He will defend his dissertation, "The Limits of Posibilismo" – The Censors and Buero Vallejo" this year. Presently he is teaching courses in second year Spanish and Spanish for Professionals. Besides working with Spanish language, literature and civilization, he is also interested in European Theater and Portuguese.



## Liliana Lay Lisung Graduate Teaching Assistant in Spanish

Liliana Lay Lisung is a native of Lima, Peru. As a Graduate Teaching Assistant in Spanish she teaches courses in grammar and conversation. She received her B.A. in



Communication Sciences from the University of Lima in 2001 with a minor in Business Communication. She has worked as a consultant in communications and public relations at the Spanish company J. A. Llorente and O. Cuenca as well as in advertising and business communications at Leo Burnett Worldwide. She is currently completing her M.A. in the IGS Program at ISU, where she is analyzing the importance of communication for the development of construction projects for a non-profit organization.

## Olga Mesropova, Assistant Professor of Russian

Originally from St. Petersburg, Russia, Olga Mesropova completed her B.A. and M.A. in Methodology of Teaching Foreign Languages (1995) and a Ph.D. in Philology (2000) from Russian State Herten University. During 1994 – 1995, she was a graduate fellow at the University of Michigan. Prior to joining ISU in the Fall of 2002, she was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian at Colorado College.



A major focus of her current research is contemporary Russian cultural discourse with an emphasis on Russian film and popular performance. She is particularly interested in Russian stand-up (or *estrada*) comedy from its early days to the post-*perestroika* era. She is studying various aspects of *estrada* comedy: the genre's "literature-centricity" (especially the connection of *estrada* comedy to literary *skaz* as a clear evidence of blurring boundaries between high and low cultural constructs), its origins and prototypes (such as intertextual connections to journalism, folklore, urban popular humor, etc.), as well as the gender implications of *estrada* humor.

She has published several articles on various aspects of Russian humor, satire, and satirical performance in journals such as *Russian Review*, *Slavic and East*

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# New faces in FLL

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European Journal, and Canadian Slavonic Papers. Her cinema-based textbook for advanced conversation, entitled *KINOTALK: Cinema for Russian Conversation* is forthcoming in 2005 with Slavica Publishers, Indiana University. She is currently working on a collection of articles (co-edited with Seth Graham, Stanford University) entitled *Uncensored? Reinventing Humor and Satire in Post-Soviet Russia*. This volume addresses a wide range of genres and media, including prose fiction, drama, poetry, folklore, film and television, animation, periodicals, comics and caricatures, graffiti, and pop music, through a specific, shared topical focus: humor and satire as modes of representation, expression, and perception in the Russia of Yeltsin and Putin.

## Eric Shi Graduate Teaching Assistant in Chinese

Eric Shi is a Graduate Teaching Assistant for Chinese 101 and an M.A. candidate in TESL/Linguistics. He received his B.A. degree in English from Beijing Foreign Studies University in 1985. He was previously a senior teacher of English in a high school in southern China.



## Julie Wilhelm Spanish Lecturer

Julie Wilhelm received her B.A. in Spanish from Central College and her M.A. in Spanish Language and Literature from the University of Northern Iowa. For 16 years she taught all levels of high school Spanish as well as Spanish to elementary students in an after school program. During her tenure as a high school Spanish teacher, she also led groups of students to Spain. Besides



teaching Spanish to younger students she has also taught Spanish classes for local police, nurses, secretaries and educators.

Julie is active in various foreign language organizations. She is the representative from IWLA to the ACTFL conference as well as the editor of the IWLA bulletin. She is also the editor of the bulletin for the Iowa Chapter of the AATSP. In 1998 she was awarded a scholarship from the national chapter of AATSP to study Spanish and foreign language teaching methods at the Don Quijote Language School in Granada, Spain. In the spring of 2003, she gave a presentation to the AATSP Iowa Chapter about Spain. She has also worked with the State Department of Education to help with an orientation program for visiting teachers from Spain.

## De Zhang Graduate Teaching Assistant in Chinese

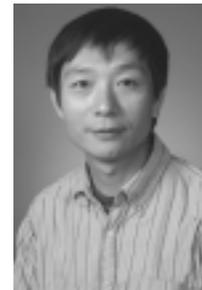
De Zhang is a doctoral student in Curriculum and Instructional Technology in The College of Education at Iowa State University. She holds two masters degrees: an M.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language/Applied Linguistics and an M.S. in Curriculum and Instructional Technology, both from ISU. Her major research interests include technology integration into second/foreign language curriculum, second language acquisition, heritage language education and online learning. During the 2004-2005 academic year, De Zhang is teaching Chinese 201 and Chinese 202. Both courses will blend online learning, supported by WebCT in Chinese, and face-to-face instruction, taking place in the Cargill digitally-enhanced classroom.



## Dongming Zhang Chinese Lecturer

Dongming Zhang teaches undergraduate courses in both Chinese language and literature. He received his B.A. from the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Peking

University in 1984, specializing in classical Chinese literature with an emphasis on Tang poetry. He obtained his M.A. in East Asian Language and Literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder. In Colorado, the focus of his research was Chinese modernism. He pursued his Ph.D. studies at Cornell University from 1997 to 2004, with expertise in modern and contemporary Chinese literature, film, and cultural studies. He is currently completing his dissertation, "Modern Chinese Popular Fiction," which discusses the nascence and the flowering of modern Chinese popular literature, ranging from the mid-19th century to the establishment of the People's Republic of China.



## Rectanus named LAS Master Teacher

Mark Rectanus, professor of German, has been named one of five Master Teachers for 2004-05 in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Master Teachers recognize teachers who have made a reputation for using methods to enhance student learning. This year's award goes to individuals who have been successful in a range of teaching activities that inspire and encourage connections to other disciplines or courses, to civic engagements and communities, to research, and to real world problems and solutions to those problems.

In the course of his 20-year career, Rectanus has provided departmental-wide leadership in connected learning for FLL. As director of the Languages and Cultures for Professions program, he has forged cooperative agreements with the Colleges of Engineering and Agriculture to offer a secondary major in foreign languages for students majoring in these professional colleges.



# FLL faculty updates

**Julia Domínguez**, lecturer in Spanish, successfully defended her doctoral thesis titled "Cartografías imaginarias: la creación de espacios utópicos en el *Lazarillo de Tormes*, el *Quijote* y la *Relación de Cabeza de Vaca*," in Hispanic Studies from the University of Arizona in September, 2004.



Her dissertation combines theories of cognitive mapping, the production of space and cartographic writings to illustrate how the narrators of *Lazarillo de Tormes*, the Captive's tale in *Don Quijote de la Mancha* and *Cabeza de Vaca's Relación* establish a relationship to the circumstances around them by means of cognitive maps. The discursive spaces created hide an ideology that is not explicit in the text, and the decoding of these cognitive maps in symbols is the only way to have access to the multiple spaces through which the narrators' journeys take place.

**Chad M. Gasta**, assistant professor of Spanish, was named Co-Director of the Languages and Cultures for Professions (LCP) Program and Director of the Western European Studies Program (WESP). He gave a talk, "Juan Ruiz de Alarcón's Imagined History: Resolving Legal Disputes in *El dueño de las estrellas*" at the Association of Hispanic Classical Theater Conference in El Paso, TX. and he published an article "(De)constructing and (Re)negotiating Identities: (Re)dressing for Carnival in Fernando Trueba's *Belle Époque* (1992)" *Hispania* 87.1 (2004): 177-84. He also spent the summer of 2004 directing the FLL's Alicante, Spain summer program with Dr. Lee LHote.



**Lee LHote**, assistant professor of Spanish, recently had an article on

Francisco Chaves Guzmán's *Retrato del heroe sumiso* published in the journal *Letras Hispanas* (Fall, 2004). He spent this past summer in Alicante, Spain serving as Co-Director of the department's summer abroad program based there. He continues to serve as the faculty director of the Spanish Club.



**Kathy Leonard**, professor of Spanish and Hispanic Linguistics, was named Director of the Latin American Studies Program in the LAS College.

On Nov.1, 2004, she gave two invited lectures dealing with translation and Bolivian women writers at the University of Iowa, one to writers participating in the International Writers Workshop, and another to students in a Latin American Literature in Translation class. Both talks were given in collaboration with the Bolivian writer Giovanna Rivero Santa Cruz, whose short stories Professor Leonard is currently translating. She also directed the study abroad program in Sucre, Bolivia during the summer of 2004.



**Eugenio Matibag**, associate professor of Spanish, published an article entitled "The Dominican American Religious Experience" in the collection *Introduction to the U.S. Latina and Latino Religious Experience*, (Brill Academic Publishers, 2004), edited by Hector Avalos. Dr. Matibag's articles on carnival, gaga, religion in the Dominican Republic and religion in Hispanic Caribbean literature are forthcoming in



*The Encyclopedia of Caribbean Religions*, (U of Illinois Press, 2005), edited by Patrick Taylor. He returned in August from Quezon City in Metro Manila, Philippines, where he researched a book on Spanish Philippine literature and the theme of national identity. He continues to chair the LAS steering committee for Asian American Studies.

**Dan Sipe**, assistant professor of French, presented a conference paper titled "Ingesting Modernity: Culinary Writing and Utopia in 19th Century France," at the 46th

Annual M/MLA Convention, held November 4-7, 2004, in St. Louis, Missouri. His journal article "Mallarmé, Livre and Utopiais" is currently under consideration for publication. In the fall, 2004, he received an LAS Small Project Grant for \$1000, awarded for travel to Paris, where he will conduct research on 19<sup>th</sup> Century culinary writing at the French National Library.



**Tom Waldemer**, senior lecturer in Spanish, published an article "The Great Chain of Being: Ecocriticism in Abel Posse's *Daimón*" in *Romance Notes*. His "Confluences: Buñuel's Cinematic Narrative and the Latin American New Novel," a translation of Victor Fuentes's "Confluencias: la narrativa filmica de Buñuel y la nueva novela hispanoamericana" was accepted for publication in *Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture*. His article "A Brazilian *Oresteia*: Geraldo Ferraz's *Doramundo*" was accepted for publication in *Romance Notes*.



# Classical Studies news

Five ISU students, including Classical Studies minors Brittany Graber, Rachael Christopherson, and Stacie Petersen, participated in our **Study Abroad in Greece** program last summer, excavating the Archaic and Classical town at Azoria, on the Greek island of Crete for seven weeks. These students were part of a larger team of 64 people, who represented 19 different universities and research institutions as well as residents of the nearby villages of Kavousi and Pacheia Ammos.

Prof. Peggy Mook is the excavation's Field Director and Donald Haggis (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) is the Director of the project. This summer we made many exciting discoveries, working in several areas of the site. We began excavation in the area we think was the city's Agora, or town square, where we uncovered one building that appears from the finds to have been used for ritual purposes. In the middle of the building was a stone-lined pit with a large clay amphora (transport jar), the bottom of which had been broken off, leaving a small hole. Given its placement projecting above the room's floor, we think it was used for ritual libations. Within the jar we found pieces of a butchered goat, which may also be a form of sacrificial offering. Although the building is big and impressive, it unfortunately is not very well preserved; we think it was a temple.

The other major discovery this year was the prytaneion, what we would call a town hall or city hall. The prytaneion would have been used by the chief magistrates and was the fundamental civic institution of the early city, the heart and soul of the urban center. We have excavated only a small part of it so far, but know that it encompasses at least 200 square meters and so was quite monumental in form.

Every prytaneion seems to have had a central hearth that was sacred to the goddess Hestia, who was one of the 12 Olympian gods. She was quite important because the hearth of Hestia was identified with the city itself and became the focal point of political activity. We have not finished digging the building and so have not found the hearth of Hestia yet, which should be in the center of a room, but we expect to find it next

summer when we continue work in this building. What we have found on the floor of the prytaneion so far in our excavations are burned animals, which may have come from the hearth. Because this building was destroyed by fire in the early 5th century and the roof collapsed sealing the floor, we have a well-preserved floor deposit that should yield evidence for both sacrifices to Hestia and public banquets that ancient authors tell us would have taken place within the prytaneion. This excellent preservation makes the prytaneion at Azoria quite unique. Of all the prytaneions from the known Greek world, none have been discovered with the actual physical remains of the sacrificial offerings and banquets still preserved.

Next summer we expect to dig the rest of the prytaneion and more of the agora. We also plan to excavate houses on the slopes of the site, where the people of the city actually lived.

ISU students reported on their experiences this summer: "I found the program extremely valuable in the sense that it gave me hands-on experience in an archaeological area. The most exciting part of the program was being able to see items that no other human had seen for thousands of years."

## Faculty news notes from Classical Studies

**Madeleine Henry** is pleased to report that 26 students are currently enrolled in Greek 101: Beginning Classical Greek. In next semester's class, Greek 102, students will spend some time exploring the New Testament.

**Peggy Mook** is co-author of the paper, "Excavations at Azoria, East Crete, 2004," to be presented at the 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in January, 2005, in Boston, MA.

## Classical studies scholarships

This year's applications for the annual **Marcus Aurelius Scholarships in Classical Studies** will be accepted through December 1, 2004. One to four scholarships of at least \$1000 will be awarded to students who are enrolled in the Classical Studies Program (majors and minors) and have taken three



Students who participated in the 2004 summer Study Abroad in Greece

"Greece was an amazing experience. The time and dedication that was put into the dig were definitely worth it, due to the discoveries and knowledge that was gained during the course of the trip." "It was a really good hands-on experience. I learned a lot about the procedures of archaeology and also a lot about Greece and its culture."

This year we will again be offering our archaeology program in Greece, CI St 394-395 Study Abroad: The Archaeology of Greece. The program will run from May 27 to July 16, 2005. The application deadline is November 30, 2004. Contact the Program leader, Peggy Mook, for more information ([msmook@iastate.edu](mailto:msmook@iastate.edu)).

**Rod Fitzsimons** continued his work as Site Architect for the Azoria Project throughout the summer of 2004, and while on Crete, he also gave on-site tours of the Archaic/Hellenistic site of Lato and Archaic Dreros to the ISU Study Abroad in Greece participants. We wish Rod success in the future; he has left his position here as Lecturer for a tenure-track position at Trent University in Ontario, close to his hometown of Toronto.

semesters of Greek or Latin or are successfully completing their third semester this term. Previous recipients are eligible to apply again. Contact Peggy Mook for more information ([msmook@iastate.edu](mailto:msmook@iastate.edu)).

# FLL Alumni and Friends Update

Where are you?

What are you doing?

Do you have any news to share?

Please help us to keep our database of alumni and friends current.

The information that you provide to us will be used to change the addresses on our departmental mailing list. We will include any other information in our newsletter's alumni and friends columns. Thank you for taking the time to keep in touch!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

May we include your e-mail address in our newsletter with your other update news? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an Iowa State alum? \_\_\_\_\_ FLL Friend? \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

Year(s) of graduation (please indicate the university, if other than Iowa State): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s) received (please indicate your major/language studied): \_\_\_\_\_

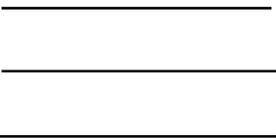
Current employment (please indicate your current employer and position): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any other information or news that you would like to share? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Favorite memory of Pearson Hall, FLL, classes in the department, friends, language club, etc.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return to us by mail (fold this page in half, tape and mail), FAX the completed form to (515) 294-9914, or e-mail us at [flnews@iastate.edu](mailto:flnews@iastate.edu).

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Iowa State University  
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures  
300 Pearson Hall  
Ames, IA 50011-2205

# James Dow named Fellow of American Folklore Society

James Dow, professor of German at Iowa State, has been named a Fellow of the American Folklore Society (AFS).

Dow was recognized at the October meeting of the AFS in Salt Lake City. An association of people who create and communicate knowledge about folklore throughout the world, AFS has more than 2,200 members. Fellows of the American Folklore Society are an honorary body of folklorists, whose election to the Fellows signifies their contributions to the field.

An internationally recognized scholar in German folklore, Dow has devoted much of his recent work to writing the history of German and Austrian folklore, including its complicity with National Socialist ideology.

He has been instrumental in discovering and revealing how National Socialist ideology appropriated folklore studies in order to help define a "pure" and "continuing" Germanic race in his books *The Nazification of an Academic Discipline, Folklore and Fascism*, and in the 700 page German volume *Völkische Wissenschaft*.

Dow is also internationally recognized as a bibliographer. He has documented the activities of folklorists in Europe and the U.S. through his editorships of two major series including



the *International Volkskundliche Bibliographie (International Folklore Bibliography)* and as co-section head of the folklore volume of the *Modern Languages Association International Bibliography*. He initiated computerization of the *International Folklore Bibliography* and created a trilingual index for it in German, French and English.

His latest book, *The Study of European Ethnology in Austria*, was published last April. In the book Dow looks at ethnology in Austria before, during and after World War II, including racist educational communities that adhered to a unique view of the "myth-ritual" theory of mythology.



Gene Larson and Anne Bourdine

## Alumni honored at Homecoming

FLL's Alumni Award recipients, Anne Bourdine and Gene Larson, were on campus Friday, October 8, to take part in the LAS Alumni Award Dinner and Ceremony held that evening.

In the afternoon our award recipients met with students and faculty in an open forum for students to discuss career choices in the field of foreign languages, literatures, and cultures. They shared their stories with students and stressed the importance of studying foreign languages and related how this study had impacted their lives.

Gene Larson repeatedly mentioned one of his former French professors, Walter Chatfield, who he credited as being his "mentor." Mr. Larson lived and worked in Saudi Arabia and is now a French teacher in Ankeny.

Anne Bourdine lived and worked in Russia for several years before returning to the United States to attend law school. She is now a lawyer in Boston.



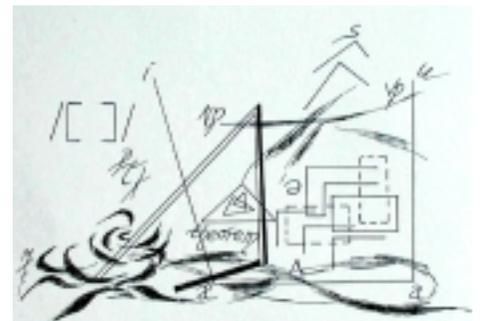
Monika Fingas

## Alumna Fingas speaks on campus

The first speaker to participate in FLL's newly formed Alumni Speaker Series was Monika Fingas (German 1974) who returned to FLL for a short visit and delivered a lecture on "The Relationship between Language and the Visual Arts."

After graduating from ISU, Monika went on to complete an M.A. at the University of Maryland (1976), and a Ph.D. at Georgetown University (1985). In addition to her courses in German, she has also taken courses in Drawing, Design, Watercolor, and Art History, and has done painting in watercolors, acrylic, oil, ink, and pencil since 1972.

She showed many of her paintings in support of her lecture.



Drawing by Monika Fingas with linguistic symbols

# Retired faculty updates

On December 21, 2004, Professor **James R. (Jim) Dow** will retire after 34 years at Iowa State and 39 years in the profession. While his teaching career will end, his research will continue, at least for a while he says. In January 2005, he will present a paper at a conference he has helped organize in Bremen (Germany), on his most recent research project, the language of the Cymbrians. There are about 300 speakers of this Germanic language who live in the Alps of Northern Italy and Dow is preparing a grammar of their language. He also has a contract with Greenwood Press to produce a *Handbook of German Folklore*, and there are several smaller projects which he now plans to finish. He will continue his work as Senior Bibliographer for the MLA, and will occasionally review books for professional journals. Fishing will move up on his list of things to do.



with my former life is translating family correspondence dating from the 1930's in Germany. Friends whose family members died in the Holocaust have an amazing number of letters and other artifacts which they plan to publish. Learning about this family has been very interesting but of course very sad, too. I am fortunate to have a small role in helping bring to the public this family's chronicle of that horrible experience.



Tanya Tipton and Peggy Johnson at the FLL Alumni Series Lecture in the fall. Both retired in 1997.



Walt Chatfield, Assistant Professor of French and Spanish, (retired 1998)

**Walt Chatfield** spends the winter months in Florida and continues to attend FLL activities when he is in Ames. He joined the FLL faculty at the annual picnic held at Reiman Gardens in September and was present for the FLL Annual Alumni awards, where one of his former students, Gene Larson, was honored.

## *Peggy Johnson writes:*

I have continued to do many of the same things I did before retirement, mainly foreign travel, trips to my home state of Oregon, volunteer work, political activism. Now I can spend more time with these activities. My sons live in beautiful places - Colorado, Oregon and Hawaii. I enjoy spending time with them. Being retired allows spring and fall travel, a great time to be on the road in the U.S. or enjoying travel in Europe before or after the heavy tourist season.

One cannot be on the go all of the time, however. There is plenty to do in Ames. My work as a Court Appointed Special Advocate has been very rewarding and has given me the opportunity to help children who have been removed from their home because of neglect or abuse. I recommend the program. It is known by its acronym CASA. Check it out.

A project more closely associated

## Business and Engineering in Spain

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures' summer Spanish program in Alicante, Spain just got a lot bigger! In addition to offering Spanish language, literature and culture courses, for summer 2005, the Alicante program also will feature collaborations with the Colleges of Business and Engineering to offer students Management 310 (*Entrepreneurship*) and Business Administration 291/491 (*Business in Spain and the European Union*). Both courses will give students the opportunity to do field work with local businesses and industry, including the transportation, naval shipping and agribusiness industries in the area. Guest speakers from the region will share their knowledge about business practices in Spain and the EU. Although these courses will be taught in English by faculty from the University of Alicante, students from the Colleges of Business and Engineering will also take intensive beginning, intermediate or advanced language courses—designed to provide them the practical linguistic and cultural

training to function professionally in the Spanish-speaking world.

The program also offers the students the opportunity to live with a Spanish host family for their entire stay in Alicante. Host families are an excellent means for students to become multi-cultural, as the families provide students intimate exposure to everyday cultural issues unavailable in a classroom setting. Like past programs, in summer 2005 students will experience a number of weekend trips to some of Spain's most culturally-rich cities, including Madrid, Granada, Toledo and El Escorial. Alicante's central location allows students to plan trips to see nearby Mediterranean coastal towns, the mountain areas and such tourist destinations as the Costa del Sol, Barcelona or Seville.

For information, contact Professor Chad M. Gasta ([gasta@iastate.edu](mailto:gasta@iastate.edu) / 294-0918), Professor Lee LHote ([ljlhote@iastate.edu](mailto:ljlhote@iastate.edu) / 294-8045), or visit the program website at: [www.language.iastate.edu/gasta](http://www.language.iastate.edu/gasta).

# Study abroad experiences

*In summer 2004, twelve ISU students spent 7 weeks studying Spanish and participating in service-learning projects in Sucre, Bolivia. Two of the students, Jessica Gunzburger (page 12) and Steve Luhmann (page 13), share their experiences.*

## Building Bathrooms in Qhora Qhora, Bolivia by Jessica Gunzburger

Bathrooms are definitely one of those things that you take for granted. They're everywhere. You just use them and think nothing of it. Well, I was certainly taught differently this past summer in Bolivia. With five other members from the program "In the Footsteps of the Incas" I had the opportunity to construct bathrooms for the school in Qhora Qhora, an outlying community about 15 minutes by bus from Sucre, where we lived and studied for the summer. When I signed up to help with this, I had no idea what I would be doing. How the heck do you build bathrooms when the town has no running water? Well, let me tell you how we did it. First, we dug a hole one meter deep, one meter long, and 60 cm wide. Naturally, the site for this hole was over a very rocky area, so you couldn't just go at it with a shovel. Instead, you pick axed through solid rock, then shoveled out the little pieces. Luckily, we had the native women to help us. These women were amazing! I'm sure each of them was as strong as at least two of us (depending on the two, of course), and they did all their work in skirts and sandals with babies tied to their backs. These were truly wonder-women. After a week of digging, the hole was finally done, and we began hard-core construction of the actual building. Luckily, one of the students in the program was an architecture student (Lisa Willman), and she was able to basically make the plans and take charge of the project. However, we had our fair share of problems. There were always more supplies to be gotten, and there was definitely a shortage of power tools. And the non-power tools we had, like

the saws, were often breaking. The kids that hung around were always more than eager to help and, darling as they were, were sometimes more of a hindrance than a help. They had no qualms whatsoever about sticking their hands where nails, hammers, and saws were at work. I'm not sure if we spent more time building or worrying . . . But after two weeks of sometimes stressful building, with a huge group effort, we moved the bathrooms into place. What a satisfying feeling! Prior to these bathrooms, the kids there had never seen toilet seats before. The school had no bathrooms; the kids went



John Havenga helping construct bathrooms



Jessica Gunzburger and friend preparing lumber for the latrines.



Students at Qhora Qhora getting a feel for the new toilet seats.

wherever they wanted—in the playground, in the field outside, etc. Not only had we given them bathrooms, but we gave them a place to wash their hands so they could begin to use some hygienic habits. But we also gave our time, which we could tell meant a lot to those people. When we left, members of the town had a big going-away party for us. The kids sang us a song they had written with their teacher about us building the bathrooms. Many of the native women prepared a meal for us. It was one more way that the people there amazed me. Compared to all of us in the United States, these people had next to nothing, but they shared everything they had with us; they shared their food, their belongings, and, the most beautiful thing of all, their hearts. There have been few times in my life when I have felt so welcomed and at home. I went down there thinking that I would be giving so much to them by helping build these bathrooms, but sometimes I think I received more. Not in a tangible item, but in the welcome and love that the wonderful community of Qhora Qhora shared with me.



## The Unexpected by Steve Luhmann

I was excited about studying Spanish in Bolivia; after all, I could travel to another country and pick up six college credits. I am an avid traveler who seeks opportunities to journey overseas every year. And although I knew Bolivia would be different, I never expected to become emotionally attached.

Part of the study abroad experience entails being involved in the local community. The team that I went to Bolivia with brought medical supplies for one of the rural schools located just outside of Sucre. In addition, International Friendship Connection (IFC), an on-campus multicultural organization, of which I am a member, donated pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners and frisbees. The day we went to the school, more than 100 children of all different ages and sizes were there to greet us. It was clear that there were many needs. Water was hauled in once a week and there was only one deteriorated bathroom facility for all those kids. The school nurse told us that many of the children had skin diseases from the unsanitary living conditions.

The school faculty thanked us over and over again for the medical supplies.

Many of the medicines the children received have been expired for 10 years, but the nurse said they are always glad to receive them. Likewise, the children were extremely excited to get the pens, pencils and frisbees. I can still recall the smiling faces.

The children there made a strong impression on us. Their sincere gratitude touched our hearts, and the clear realization of how important each



Steve Luhmann with a student at Qhora Qhora School where supplies were donated.

one of them is was etched in my mind. I pondered on the wealth in the United States and wondered how I could communicate the needs of these children to those back home. I discovered that much of Bolivia was like this school; there are many needs, but the people are grateful to meet you and treat you like part of their family. I became emotionally attached to Bolivia - this was unexpected.



ISU students and the completed bathrooms at Qhora Qhora School.

# International student club news

## French Club

On Saturday, September 25, the ISU French Club and their advisor, Jean Pierre Taoutel, sponsored a "Day in the Country" for all students taking French classes. Approximately thirty students participated in the event, held at the Lynn Fuhrer Lodge in Ames. Students spent the perfect fall day walking in the woods, playing games, including "pétanque," French lawn bowling, watching films, talking - in English and in French, and enjoying a French meal.

Nelle Kottman supervised several budding chefs in the kitchen (and many "sous chefs" who did lots of chopping) as they prepared "boeuf bourguignon" (beef stew with wine and mushrooms) and ratatouille (a classic French dish composed of zucchini, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, onions, and garlic). Josianne Lapertôt, wife of Gérard Lapertôt, a visiting faculty member, prepared two typical French desserts for the group - "mousse au chocolat" and apple tart. The Lapertôts, who are from Grenoble, France, are spending the year in Ames with their daughters Fannie and Marion.

American students enjoyed meeting the family and practicing their French skills with both parents and the two young women. ISU French students are looking forward to a "Winter day in the Country" in January or February when we will prepare crepes.

## Spanish Club

The Spanish Club has plans for another active year at Iowa State University. Almost 40 students from all levels attended the first club meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Among the activities planned for the 2004-2005 school year are: bi-weekly Spanish Conversation Tables at local cafes and restaurants, movie nights, regular get-togethers at La Boheme for Latin Dance Night, a *fiesta* and altar project for *El Día de los Muertos*, fundraising and volunteer activities within the local Latino community, as well as other fun events.

Spanish Conversation Tables are now up and running—this is an activity where students may speak Spanish with REAL Spanish-speakers. It was created for those who would like to practice



their Spanish, share their study abroad experiences, or just enjoy themselves for an hour or so by talking, laughing, drinking coffee, and having fun in the company of other Spanish speakers. Spanish Conversation Tables are held Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Stomping Grounds on Welch. The group meets outside, so wear a sweater.

Students interested in joining the Spanish Club may email the club president, Melissa Shill, at [meshill@iastate.edu](mailto:meshill@iastate.edu) to have their names added to the club email list, which keeps students informed about upcoming activities.

Besides Melissa, this year's officers are: Vice-President, Sarah Wakefield; Secretary, Howard Hughes; Treasurer, Anne Edwards; Conversation Table Leader, Jessie Campbell; Fundraising Chairs, Stephanie Goodwin and Sherry Johnson; Webmaster, Isi Oaman; and Faculty Advisor, Professor Lee L'Hote.

## National Foreign Language Resource Center

**2004 Summer Institutes:** See scenes from the institute and the children's Japanese class taught by Jessica Haxhi (Rethinking the PreK-12 FL Curriculum: Intrinsically Interesting, Cognitively Engaging, Culturally Connected, and Articulated Institute) and the work of Oaxacan artist and institute presenter, Armando Jiménez Arragón (Language, Culture and Content Connections: Mexico and the Zapotec Culture Institute). [<http://www.educ.iastate.edu/nflrc/inst/2004/>].

**Nominate an Exemplary Foreign**

**Language Program:** New Visions in Action (NVA) seeks to improve and strengthen language learning throughout the nation by making information about exemplary PreK-16 programs easily available to the profession. Therefore, NVA is requesting nominations of programs, which will be reviewed by working groups, and if deemed exemplary will be featured on the NVA website. Nominate your own, or another elementary, secondary, or postsecondary foreign language program for its excellence in curriculum, teacher development, teacher recruitment, or teacher retention. [<http://www.educ.iastate.edu/newvisions/>].

## Classical Studies lectures

**Erich Gruen**, from the University of California at Berkeley, whose most recent book is *Diaspora: Jews amidst Greeks and Romans*, spoke on "Pagans and Jews: The Roots of Anti-Semitism?" on April 21, 2004. A large audience from across the University attended the talk.

**Judith Hallet**, author of "Fathers and Daughters in Roman Society: Women and the Elite Family," will be lecturing at Iowa State in March 2005 on a topic concerning Roman women. More information will be available in the spring.

# From the ISU Foundation

Every story you'll read in this issue of the "FLL Newsletter" reflects the vitality and hard work that are part of the day-to-day educational experience in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Iowa State University. Alumni and friends play an important role in enriching that experience for students and faculty by providing gift support.

As Senior Director of Development for all departments in the College of Liberal Arts, I have gained a new perspective on the College's need for resources (resources that can be directed to Foreign Languages and Literatures) and the departmental initiatives that need funding beyond what the state provides.

I would encourage you to consider a gift to the Department each year. Annual support at every level is crucial to maintaining the quality of our programs. If you wish, the ISU Foundation will send you a

yearly reminder in whatever month you specify.

Long-range estate and financial planning allow you to make a substantial contribution to the FLL Department while benefiting your personal financial plans. Bequests and trusts are among the deferred giving options that I would be happy to discuss with you.

As I've worked to help the College and its departments raise private funds to augment state allocations, I've realized that every gift is important. Each gift, no matter what the amount, adds strength to our programs at Iowa State and has a lasting impact on the quality of education, research, and service we provide. Your gift counts and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

If you would like to learn more about how you can make a difference in the FLL Department, please contact me at Iowa State University, The College of Liberal Arts, 239

Catt Hall, Ames, Iowa 50014. 1-866-419-6768 or email me at [amellecker@iastate.edu](mailto:amellecker@iastate.edu).

*Alsatia Mellecker*  
Senior Director of Development  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



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FLL Newsletter  
Iowa State University  
Department of Foreign  
Languages & Literatures  
300 Pearson Hall  
Ames, IA 50011-2205

## FLL Newsletter

Dawn Bratsch-Prince, chair  
Editor: Kathy Leonard  
Design: Dave Gieseke

The FLL Newsletter is published twice a year (spring and fall) for the alumni, friends, and faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Iowa State University, an academic department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Please address all correspondence to the editor: [fllnews@iastate.edu](mailto:fllnews@iastate.edu)

FAX: 515-294-9914  
Mailing Address:  
FLL Newsletter  
Iowa State University  
Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures  
300 Pearson Hall  
Ames, IA 50011-2205

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