

NEH grant to send high school teachers to France for the summer

Opportunities like this are too good to pass up. World languages and cultures faculty members Nelle Kottman and Linda Quinn Allen should know. Both have taught at secondary level and know the value of such an experience for a high school teacher.

That's why the pair don't think they'll have too much of a problem finding 30 high school French teachers who want to spend three weeks in France.

The National Endowment for the Humanities agreed with Kottman and Allen and has awarded the two a \$129,000 NEH Summer Institute Grant for the three-week program that will take place next July at the Science U in Lyon, France. Teachers throughout the U.S. will be eligible to participate and will receive a stipend in support of their travel.

"I was a high school French teacher myself," said Allen, now an associate professor, "and I've been interested in the professional development of teachers. We think this three-week program will be very attractive."

Kottman, an adjunct instructor, participated as a young teacher in the National Defense Education Act, a similar program to this one. She goes a step further in her evaluation of the potential of the program.

"I think we're going to have so many good candidates that it's going to be really hard to select those that get to go," she said.

Allen and Kottman say the program has two primary goals. First they want the participants to develop an appreciation of Lyon's rich



Nelle Kottman and Linda Quinn Allen.

cultural heritage and an increased awareness of the city's way of life.

Kottman, who has spent extensive time in France as the director (14 years) of the Iowa Regents' study abroad program for undergraduates in Lyon, says the French city is France's version of Chicago, the country's "second city."

Participants will live with host families in the historic city for three weeks and will participate in lectures on Lyon's cultural and historical significance. Topics to be discussed include the city's heritage from the Romans to the Renaissance, the last three centuries in the city, and special cultural topics of today.

Sessions will be presided over by guest scholars and master teachers during the morning. In the afternoon, participants will visit sites that relate to the morning sessions.

"The program is designed around a series of classes, discussions and excursions," Kottman said. "We'll help the teachers see the city from

the inside out. Not as tourists but really up close and personal.

Allen says that's important for high school instructors to be able to relate to their students what the mood in France is really like.

"As teachers I think they already have some ideas of what they want to explore," she said. "I think these teachers will use their time well and appreciate the opportunity to bring back a first-hand knowledge of the country to their students."

A second goal of the program is to enhance the participants' language proficiency in French.

"High school French teachers are frequently alone in their buildings and rarely have an opportunity to improve on speaking the language," Kottman said. "Many don't have an opportunity to travel to France. From the day they arrive to the day they leave they will have total immersion speaking only French, living with a French family and having classes taught in only French." □

An update from the department chair

This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the *WLC Newsletter*. The newsletter has served to keep our many alumni, students, and friends connected over time and across the distances that separate us. Since our last issue, which circulated for the first time to our Modern Language graduates, we have begun to hear from some of you who graduated prior to 1970. I want to encourage all of our alumni to send us recent news and updates so that we can all remain connected.

We began the academic year with the inauguration of our new name, "Department of World Languages and Cultures." This new name represents more accurately the breadth of our curriculum and faculty expertise. It positions us to better meet the changing needs of our undergraduate student population, while aligning the department more centrally with the land-grant mission of Iowa State University in the twenty-first century.

This fall two of our faculty in French, Linda Quinn Allen and Nelle Kottman, received a highly competitive National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute grant for a three-week program in Lyon, France, for secondary school French teachers. The grant acknowledges the expertise that Professors Allen and Kottman bring to this enterprise, and at the same time recognizes the importance of target-language immersion experiences for in-service language teachers. We hope that some of our alumni will take advantage of this invaluable study opportunity.

We welcomed this fall two new tenure-track faculty to the department, Stacy Weber-Feve (Ph.D., Ohio State) in French, and Kristin Vander Lugt (Ph.D., Indiana) in German. In addition we are hosting three visiting international instructors this year: Werner Nieto

Arana, who teaches in our summer study program in Arequipa, Perú, is a lecturer in Spanish this fall semester. Through participation in the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program the department is hosting two scholars for this academic year: Anna Brutman (Russia) who is teaching and working in our Russian Studies program; and Abdulrahman Al-Aufi (Oman) who is teaching first-year Arabic (101-102), offered at ISU for the first time. Our visiting colleagues bring new perspectives and ideas to the department as they fill a critical instructional need.

At Homecoming 2006, the department faculty recognized the achievements of three of its alumni: Sue Otto, Christine Romans, and Beth VanderWilt. Faculty were pleased to welcome back these accomplished individuals who graciously shared their expertise and career advice with some of our



students, in both WLC and Applied Linguistics and Technology (English). The Classical Studies Program also recognized a distinguished graduate, Amy Thomsen, who visited with students in several Classical Studies classes. Please consider nominating an alumnus/alumna for our 2007 Alumni Achievement Awards (at www.language.iastate.edu).

Dawn Bratsch-Prince
Department Chair

WLC Newsletter

Dawn Bratsch-Prince, chair
Editor: Dave Gieseke, College
of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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

Please address all correspondence to Cindy James, WLC secretary, at csjames@iastate.edu

FAX: 515-294-9914
www.language.iastate.edu

Mailing Address:
WLC Newsletter
Iowa State University
Department of World Languages
and Cultures
3102 Pearson Hall
Ames, IA 50011-2205

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news

Mu selected as LAS Master Teacher

Aili Mu, assistant professor of Chinese, was one of six faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) named Master Teachers for 2006-07.



This is the eighth year of the LAS Master Teacher program, which recognizes teachers who have a reputation for using unique methods to enhance student learning. This year's award recognizes individuals who have successfully integrated innovative materials and activities into their teaching, which has enhanced the learning of students.

Mu integrates her research on contemporary Chinese culture into a wide range of course offerings on film, literature and popular texts. Students also have access to syllabi, web links and a significant amount of supplemental materials on WebCT and course websites that are fully integrated into the learning process. □

Taoutel receives fellowship

Jean-Pierre Taoutel, senior lecturer in French, has been named the recipient of the 2006 McClain Faculty Fellowship in Art History.



Taoutel used the fellowship to study the history of Arabic calligraphy at an international workshop held in Beirut, Lebanon. He gave a public lecture in November on Arabic calligraphy, art and history.

"Arabic calligraphy is a primary form of art for visual expression and creativity," he said. "It is also an historical symbol representing unity, beauty, power and has achieved a high level of sophistication as a result of its historical

development."

The Jeoraldean S. McClain Faculty Fellowship in Art History was established to show how art is an important form of language. The \$4000 award was established by McClain, professor emerita of art history, to cover a portion of the expenses of travel abroad for faculty members to engage in a structured study in art history. □



Chinese language students compete

The Ninth Cross-University Chinese Language Performance Competition closed on April 22, 2006, in Iowa City. University of Iowa, Grinnell College, and Iowa State University entered the competition for one grand prize, two second prizes, and three third prizes. The first-year students Molly Grisham, Gertrude Profio, Josh Dehlinger, and Tony Lansing from Iowa State University won the grand prize for the best performance. Iowa State's Megan Brentlinger and Stephanie Tang took a third prize.

Latin American Studies certificate established

The first-ever undergraduate certificate of study at Iowa State has been approved in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Iowa State Faculty Senate approved the Undergraduate Certificate in Latin American Studies at its Nov. 14 meeting. The certificate was first proposed by **Kathy Leonard**, professor of Spanish, and developed with the input of the Latin American Studies Program steering committee that she chairs.

"The certificate is a cross-disciplinary course of study in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences," said **Thomas Waldemer**, senior lecturer of Spanish and interim director of the Latin American Studies Program. "It is designed for undergraduate students in any major who wish to enhance their degree and employment possibilities by adding expertise in Latin America and linguistic competence in a primary and secondary world language."

The certificate requires study in Spanish and Portuguese in addition to a total of 24 credits from a list of approved courses in agronomy, anthropology, history, international studies, political science, and world languages and cultures. □



NFLRC receives \$1.3 million U.S. Department of Education grant

Marcia Rosenbush, adjunct associate professor of Spanish and director of Iowa State's National K-12 Foreign Language Resource Center (NFLRC), announces that the NFLRC has been awarded a U.S. Department of Education \$1.3 million grant over four years.

The grant runs from August 2006 through August 2010.

With this grant funding, Rosenbush will be able to continue to work with the Iowa Department of Education in support of two-way Spanish immersion programs in Iowa.

The NFLRC worked intensely in the summer of 2006 with Postville Elementary School and Sioux City's new Irving Elementary School, both of which will began Kindegarten two-way Spanish immersion programs this year.

The NFLRC will be working closely with Iowa State's Mack Shelley and the RISE program to research the impact of these programs on student learning as measured by standardized tests. □

LCP advisory board formed

The Department of World Languages and Cultures has established a LCP (Languages and Cultures for Professions) Advisory Board. The group held their first meeting on campus in November 2006.

"The advisory board was proposed as part of the Title VI-A grant that the department received and was further recommended by the external reviewers for that grant," said Dawn Bratsch-Prince, professor and department chair.

The LCP Advisory Board comprises key faculty, administrators and leaders from both the private and public sectors who are "committed to helping Iowa State prepare its students for careers in the global workplace."

Discussion at the initial meeting included an overview of the LCP Program, possible future funding for the program and a graduate program in intercultural communication.

Members of the LCP Advisory Board include:

Dawn Bratsch-Prince, professor of Spanish and chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

Tom Bruton (2005 B.S. in Civil Engineering and Spanish), Metcalf and Eddy, an international water/wasterwater engineering consulting firm in Chicago.

Chad Gasta, assistant professor of Hispanic Studies and co-director of the LCP program.

Patrick Gilchrist, retired engineer for Sauer-Danfoss.

Jon Grannis, president of Logical Performance, Inc., an Ankeny, Iowa-based firm specializing in web site design and marketing.

Al Hirsch ('66 B.S. in electrical engineering), managing director of CTARCo International in the state of Washington.

Mark Kushner, dean of the College of Engineering.

Sandra Larson ('75 B.S. biology and '88 civil engineering), research and technology bureau director in the Highway Division of the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Nan Mattai, senior vice president, Rockwell Collins Engineering and Technology.

Carylann Mucha, retired from United Airlines.

Kay Palan, associate dean of undergraduate programs and associate professor of marketing, College of Business.

Mark Rectanus, professor of German and co-director of the LCP Program.

Michael Whiteford, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. □

International scholarships

Three students have received scholarships and/or awards to study abroad for the 2006-07 school year.

Carrie Carlson, a junior German major, has won a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) undergraduate scholarship to study paleontology and German at the University of Bonn. The scholarship, sponsored by the German government, covers tuition, travel and includes a monthly stipend.

Blake Brownrigg, a senior philosophy major, has been awarded the Ministry of Education Mandarin

Enrichment Scholarship of the Republic of China on Taiwan in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education. The scholarship includes a monthly stipend and is sponsored by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States.

Edward Bulliner, a junior chemical engineering major, has been selected a principal candidate for the Chinese Cultural Scholarship sponsored by the China Scholarship Council, The People's Republic of China. □

Ceremony recognizes students

On April 9, 2006, the Annual WLC Awards Ceremony was held to recognize outstanding students and scholarship recipients in the department.

Dawn Bratsch-Prince, professor and department chair welcomed the students and their guests gathered in the Memorial Union's Campanile Room. A number of awards were given to students in each of the language categories. They were:

CHINESE

Outstanding Students in Chinese: Blake Brownrigg, Josh Dehlinger, Momoka Fukushima, Molly Grisham, John Lee, Gertrude Profio, William Shepard

FRENCH

Outstanding Graduating Seniors in French: Katherine Schnable, Tina Walston

Senior Honors in French: Lindsay Boland, Jennifer Hanchar, Katherine Schnable, Courtney Smith, Tina Walston

French Internship Awards: Kathryn Wagner, Tina Walston

GERMAN

Outstanding Students in German:
First Year: Jennifer Edmondson, Roberto Koeneke, Ryan Nielsen.
Second Year: Patrick Teply, David Prater; **Third Year:** Mara Determan, Stephen Kallenbach; **Fourth Year:** Kyle Wardlow

PORTUGUESE

Outstanding Achievement in Portuguese: Chris Hieggelke, Emily Puhl, James Roach

RUSSIAN STUDIES

Outstanding Graduating Seniors in Russian Studies: Yelena Bolotina, Rita Tisinger

Outstanding Students in Russian Studies: Nicole Asmussen, Jedediah Hovey, Ashlea Twait

SPANISH

Distinguished Achievement in Spanish: Rachel Bartels, Levi Byers, Nicole Johnson, Andrea Sailer

Outstanding Graduating Senior in Spanish: Emily Puhl

Following the student awards, department scholarship winners were announced including:

Alfred P. Kehlenbeck Scholarship of \$1,500: Megan Fandel, Rachel Gannon

Sarah Dahlke Memorial Scholarship of \$1,250: Victoria Munoz, Rachel Kapke

Ronald A. Schubert Scholarship of \$1,000: Audrey Pohlman

Louise Semmons Scholarship of \$1,250: Sarah Juhl, Lan Phung

Van Iten Study Abroad Scholarship of \$200: Emily Lowry

Walter Chatfield Scholarship of \$200: Rachel Gannon

Marcus Aurelius Scholarship in Classical Studies: Matthew Caffrey, \$1,800; Thomas Drake, \$1,000; Benjamin Zahradnik, \$1,000.

The keynote speaker was **Amy M. Thomsen**, Iowa State alumna: B.A. 1993 (with distinction, Phi Beta Kappa), M.A. 1996.

After a few closing remarks, the ceremonies concluded so everyone could enjoy some refreshments. □

Graduating seniors

The Department of World Languages and Cultures congratulates its spring 2006 graduates and wishes them all the best in the future!

Spanish

Kate Barnhouse, Rachel Bartels, Levi Byers, Jessica Campbell, Eric Giebelstein, Jonathan Havenga (LCP), Nicole Johnson, Kacia Kriener, Stacy Kyndesen, Andrea Miller, Tara Monson, Jenny Omvig (LCP), Stacy Peiffer, Emily Puhl, Timothy Rhoads, Raphael Riordan, Andrea Saile, Sarah Schulz, Elana Walker

French

Lindsay Boland, Jennifer Hanchar, Katherine Schnable, Tina Walston

German

Jeremy Brooks, Rita Tisinger

Russian Studies

Yelena Bolotina, Dimitriv Komm

new faculty profiles

The Department of World Languages and Cultures welcomes two new junior faculty members this fall.



Kris Thomas Vander Lugt
Assistant Professor (German)
PhD, Indiana University, 2006

Professor Vander Lugt joined the Department of World Languages and Cultures in 2006. After graduating from the University of Rochester in German and Psychology, she completed her M.A. in Germanic Languages and Literatures at Pennsylvania State University and her Ph.D. in Modern German Culture and Literature at Indiana University. Her primary research areas lie in twentieth and twenty-first century German and Austrian literature, contemporary film, and culture studies, with an emphasis on materiality and the aesthetics of horror. Her dissertation examined representations of the dead and undead body in German-language literary and visual culture since the 1960s, with an eye to correspondences between bodies that are not "properly dead" and specters of nationality, including the ongoing legacy of fascism, the "monstrous

birth" of German reunification, and attempts to reconceptualize postwar German masculinity.

Her publications have covered topics ranging from contemporary women's writing to "reunification horror film." A book chapter entitled "Better Living Through Splatter? Christoph Schlingensiefel's *Unsightly Bodies* and the Politics of Gore" looks at political and ethical dimensions of splatter, a sub-genre of horror, in the early films of German performance artist Christoph Schlingensiefel. The chapter is forthcoming with Scarecrow Press in Steffen Hantke's edited anthology, *Caligari's Heirs: The German Cinema of Fear after 1945* (February 2007).

Professor Vander Lugt spent the 2005-2006 academic year in Berlin, where - alongside attempts to navigate the subway during the World Cup Finals - her work included research for a manuscript focusing on the re-emergence of horror film in the mainstream since the German reunification.

Stacey Weber-Feve

Assistant Professor (French)
PhD, Ohio State University, 2006

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Weber-Feve completed a double B.A. in French and English with a minor in Secondary Education (with PA state teaching certification) at Westminster College (New Wilmington, PA) in 1999. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in French from The Ohio State University (Columbus) in 2001 and 2006, respectively, in the areas of French and Francophone Cinemas, 20th/21st century literatures, and Women's Studies.

Her research focuses on contemporary French-language women's filmmaking and lifewriting

from the Métropole (France) and the Maghreb (North Africa). She examines the problematic location of home, the traditional female activity of homemaking, and the representation of female subjectivity. She is particularly interested in issues surrounding women's representation, women's coming to voice, the effects of voicing the personal, the gaze, and gender discourses of femininity. Her work draws heavily on feminist and postcolonial film and literary theory as well as theories of lifewriting and domesticity.

To date, her publications have centered on the debut feature-length films of North African artists, Assia Djebar and Raja Amari. She is currently working on a collection of articles centering on recent works by Coline Serreau, Leïla Sebbar, and Claire Denis. She also has a book project underway that examines these artists', as well as Annie Ernaux's and Yamina Benguigui's, use of home as a space of socio-political-historical contention. Additionally, she is a main author of a first-year French language textbook that is in progress with McGraw Hill.

"I love teaching (!) and am very pleased to be able to teach courses for the Department of World Languages and Cultures related to my research as well as courses on French language and French/Francophone literatures, cultures, business, and film," Weber-Feve says. □

New resource

In the old Department of World Languages and Cultures resource center there was hardly a spare square inch of space that wasn't utilized.

In fact you could probably call that old facility a bit overcrowded.

That's something you can't say about the department's newly expanded Language Studies Resource Center (LSRC). The wide-open facility is the primary resource for students enrolled in foreign languages classes who seek access to audio, video, textual and electronic materials in support of their language studies.

Located on the third floor of Pearson Hall, the LSRC is more than twice the size of the old facility. The new space was established with the recent renovations to Pearson Hall and includes banks of computers and televisions. The LSRC has laptops available for students to use when they are viewing videos.

It also serves as the instructional technology hub of the Department of World Languages and Cultures, providing specialized media resources and support for language and culture classes throughout Pearson Hall.

While language students can watch videos, DVDs or live satellite television in the language they are studying or use Podcasts for their classes, the new space is much more than just a technology center.

"It's more of a social and gathering space for our students," said Julio Rodriguez, the LSRC director. "We expect students to interact socially and use the languages they are learning."



Renovations allow Department of World Languages and Cultures and Julio Rodriguez to establish expanded resource center.

Open last January, the facility has used the expanded space to separate the video viewing area from the computer lab section.

"Those two areas didn't mix," Rodriguez says. "We've arranged the computers against the wall so it's not so much 'in your face.' It's a little bit different than your typical computer lab."

The facility is also home to the Molas exhibit. Molas are an artistic tradition of the Cunas in Panama, which are created by hand using different colored fabrics.

The exhibit was created by Spanish 201 students taught by Eduardo Garcia. The class studied the creation of the Molas and created their own versions on paper to represent individual qualities. Each student selected an animal based on its symbolism as well as positive and negative attributes.

A recorded explanation of what the students did is available through Podcasts in both English and Spanish.

The LSRC has several other

projects it is working on including a pilot test of adding voice capabilities to WebCT, a course management system that has been in use at Iowa State since 1998. Some of the additions to WebCT include voice e-mail, threaded voice boards, live voice chat and a voice recorder.

Rodriguez says his office is also working to enhance the quality of instruction by bringing effective and relevant technologies into the classrooms where languages and cultures are taught, creating richer learning experiences for language learners.

"We're working on bringing in the right type of technology for language learning and provide more access to this type of technology to the students than they would have elsewhere," he said. □

Leader of the department

Two, maybe three achievements - that's all anyone can expect to be remembered for.

At least that's what a speaker said at an American Council of Education Women's Leadership forum Dawn Bratsch-Prince attended last summer.

"The presenter said we shouldn't try to tackle too many things. Instead we should focus on the big projects," said Bratsch-Prince, professor and chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

Bratsch-Prince is focused on the big project. And a university committee charged with selecting the recipient of the ISU Foundation Award for Departmental Leadership agreed by naming Bratsch-Prince for the honor. This comes a year after LAS selected her for a similar award.

In Bratsch-Prince's tenure as department chair, she points to two accomplishments that stood out.

"The name change of the department is a huge achievement," she said, "because of what it means to faculty and staff."

Bratsch-Prince led the charge for the name change, which was changed from the traditional foreign languages and literatures monogram to the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

"World Languages and Cultures more accurately describes how this department has broadened the scope of what we do," Bratsch-Prince said. "Literature, narrowly defined, and languages aren't the only things the faculty teach in this department. By looking at the old name, however, that is the impression one gets.

"The new name gives us room to reposition ourselves and continue to build on our strengths. It will allow us to attract a broader student audience."

The new name will also allow the department to more effectively engage other units for collaborative efforts.

"It takes time to change a culture

in a department," Bratsch-Prince said. "This is a step in that direction.

"I'm thankful we started a dialogue about this and other items years ago particularly in light of the budget cuts the University has sustained in recent years. This positions the department better for the years to come."

The name change is just one item that Bratsch-Prince could point to on her resume as an accomplishment as department chair. The other major success is the creation of the department's Languages and Cultures for the Professions (LCP) program. The program is directed by Mark Rectanus, professor of German, and Chad Gasta, assistant professor of Spanish, and supported by the rest of the department's faculty and staff.

The program integrates extensive training in languages and cultures for students in professional disciplines. The department has cooperative agreements with the Colleges of Business and Engineering.

While that conference speaker may have said to focus on only two, maybe three impact projects,

Bratsch-Prince isn't prone to do that. New ideas to continue the department's growth are being developed.

Future plans include merging all the department's national language majors into a single major in world languages and cultures. An introductory course might be included, focusing on all aspects of language. Class work would end with a capstone course.

"We're still very much in the discussion phase but I do feel this would strengthen our department," she said.

She also believes the possibility of a graduate program holds endless opportunities. But don't expect it to be the same type of graduate study offered at other universities.

"When we interview candidates



for our open faculty positions it's shocking to see how many universities prepare future teachers and scholars," she said. "It's frequently the same way they were training us when I was in graduate school 20 years ago."

Instead, Bratsch-Prince would like to develop a graduate program with ties to the department's growing strengths in professional communication and culture.

"Many institutions and businesses seek teachers and employees with proficiency in a second language and the professional communication and cultural expertise to go with it," she said. "Few graduate programs offer this type of training. We can fill this need, but I think we have to do it quickly to keep ahead of the curve."

But even Bratsch-Prince realizes her department can't be all things to all people.

"Every project won't be successful. Some risks won't pay off. But we have an outstanding group of faculty with a range of expertise you won't easily find in a more traditional foreign languages department. They are poised to make an impact," she said. □

student news

Spanish without borders: *Introduction to medical interpretation*

By Kyle Metz

During the spring semester of 2006, I had the opportunity to take Spanish 353X, introduction to medical interpretation. This course appealed to me because it combined two interests I have, science and Spanish. I had no idea what to expect from this class because it had never been offered before. Little did I know how much I would learn from this new class, both academically and morally.

The moral context of this class was one I had never experienced in a Spanish class, or in any class I had taken before. This part of the class is where I developed most because I had never thought seriously on many of the topics discussed during the class. This course tests the students on real life situations medical interpreters must endure as a component of their job. One of the requirements of the class is observation of a medical interpreter. The day I spent at the hospital was very moving because I experienced language barriers in life or death situations and the importance of interpreters

instead of only reading about them in a textbook.

The academic portion of the class was very constructive. An interesting section of the class focused on vocabulary. I found this vocabulary much more motivating to learn because it concentrated on all of the variations of a word throughout the Spanish world. It was fascinating to learn the diverse range of medical terminology used in Hispanic countries. A larger portion of the class focused on consecutive interpretation. I found this part of the class to be very effective because of its intense nature. This was also very rewarding because I observed a significant improvement in my Spanish interpretation skills throughout the course of the semester.

Overall, Spanish 353X was one of my favorite classes I have taken since coming to college. The class was worthwhile from both academic and moral sides, and I would recommend it to anyone with an interest in science and Spanish. □

Summer in Valencia

The ISU in Alicante summer program has moved.

The program is now called ISU on the Mediterranean and will take place in the sunny coastal city of Valencia, Spain.

Like Alicante, Valencia is a part of Spain's world-renowned *Costa Blanca* (White Coast) - a coastal community with wide stretches of white sandy beaches surrounded by mountainous terrain and green orchards that provides an exceptional location for a summer program.

The host institution for the program is the Universidad de Valencia and the program lasts six weeks. Students can earn from six to nine credits.

The program fee (\$3100 for 2007) includes a home stay with a Spanish family together with another Iowa State student, classroom instruction, and tours of Madrid, Salamanca, Toledo, El Escorial and Segovia.

Most scholarships and financial aid apply.

Activities organized for participating students include cooking, dance and water sports such as sailing, snorkeling and windsurfing.

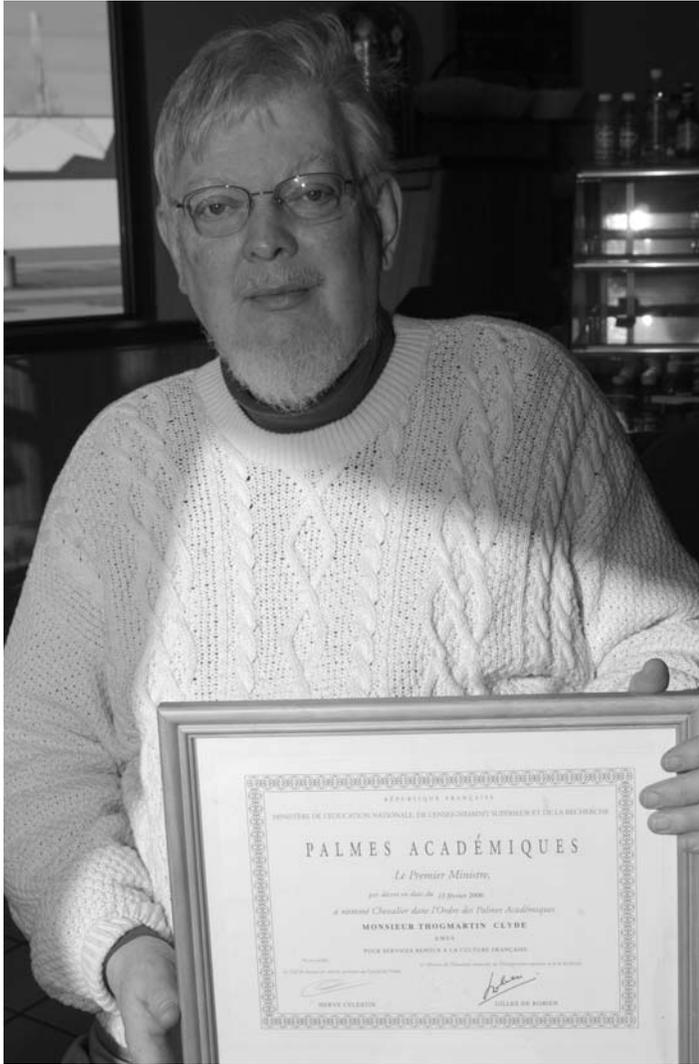
The 2007 program will be held May 24 through July 8.

More information on the ISU on the Mediterranean program is available at www.language.iastate.edu/valencia/default.htm. □



Alex Baumgarten won first prize in the Department of World Languages and Cultures Study Abroad Photo Contest. "Reflexions of Spain" was taken in Vigo, Spain. Baumgarten received a \$50 gift certificate from Best Buy for his winning entry.

French Knight



Clyde Thogmartin recognized by French government.

When he was first asked to be the managing editor of the *French Review*, Clyde Thogmartin turned the offer down.

At the time he was putting the finishing touches on his book, *The National Daily Press of France*, and didn't feel like he could devote the necessary time.

Three years later, the flagship publication of the American Association of Teachers of French was back at Thogmartin's doorstep asking him to reconsider the job.

"I thought I wouldn't get the opportunity again," said Thogmartin, associate professor emeritus of French and linguistics.

So this time, Thogmartin said yes. Little did he know that after completing a three-year term as managing editor of the *French Review* that he would be recognized for that effort by the French government.

He has recently been named a "Chevalier dans l'ordre

des Palmes Académiques," (Knight in the Order of Academic Palms), for his "contributions to French culture." The decoration, given by the French Ministry of Education, is the oldest civil distinction awarded in France.

"I'm pretty certain that I received the award primarily for being the managing editor of the *French Review*," Thogmartin said.

In his role as the managing editor of the largest circulation journal of French studies, Thogmartin served as a copy editor, proofreader and fact checker for six issues each year.

"It keeps you busy and three years is about all you can take (in this role)," Thogmartin said. "But I felt like I was doing something useful for the profession."

Now Thogmartin has been recognized for that service, an award which he views as a "lifetime achievement."

"This award shows me that somebody else noticed what I accomplished in my career," he said. "Often times as a teacher you don't see the results of what you're doing."

"This type of award makes you think like you've accomplished something."

There was something else that Thogmartin accomplished during his career – the book that initially delayed his decision to become the managing editor of the *French Review*.

The National Daily Press of France is a "very general book." While previous manuscripts had been published on the influence of newspapers during the French Revolution, little had been written (in English) on journalism in France. Thogmartin's book looks at the French national press from the 17th century to present day.

"The press in France is free now but it was an epic struggle to gain that freedom," Thogmartin said. "That made an interesting story."

A member of the Iowa State faculty from 1968 until he retired in 2002, Thogmartin taught French language, linguistics and culture. He was director of Iowa State's study abroad program in France and worked to place students in the Lausanne (Switzerland) and Laval (Canada) programs.

He was a founding member of the ISU Cross-Disciplinary Program in Linguistics, a program that he also chaired during his time on campus.

His research interests in French linguistics span broad historical and geographical frames including French in Canada and the United States. □

alumni news

WLC alumni recognized at Homecoming event

The Department of World Languages and Cultures recognized three outstanding alumna during the 2006 Iowa State Homecoming celebration. This is the third year that the department has recognized its alumni.

Recipients and their awards include:

Alumni Educational Achievement Award

Sue Kovacic Otto, 1969 BS, Spanish, Iowa City, Iowa

Sue Otto is the director of the Language Media Center at the University of Iowa. She is also an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and specializes in computer-assisted language learning and the use of new technologies in the language laboratory.

Otto was the co-founder and co-director of PICS (the Project for International Communication Studies). Since 1983, the work of PICS has focused on the acquisition of authentic television materials in Spanish, French and German, and on the development and publication of pedagogical support materials, both print- and computer-based, for distribution to educational institutions in the U.S. and Canada.

In addition to her work at the University of Iowa, Otto has served as a translator for Communication Services of Iowa and as a high school Spanish teacher at Bondurant-Farrar High School.

She holds master's and Ph.D. degrees in Spanish language and literature from the University of Iowa.'

Beth Vander Wilt, 1984 BA, Spanish, Jefferson, Iowa

Beth Vander Wilt has been teaching Spanish to high school students for 22 years, 20 in the Jefferson-Scranton (Iowa) School District. She is a dedicated and model teacher who is actively engaged in the foreign language discipline.

She has presented sessions at the Iowa World Language Association (IWLA) conference on numerous occasions and she has twice earned "Best of Iowa" award as for her work.

In 2005, Vander Wilt was named "Iowa World Language Teacher of the Year" in the high school division. She has been a mentor for several new teachers and has had two student teachers from Iowa State.

Vander Wilt earned her National Board Certification in 2002, the first year it was offered. This is a highly prestigious recognition of her professional qualifications as a foreign language educator.

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Recipients of Department of World Languages and Cultures alumni awards were recognized during an evening dinner by department chair Dawn Bratsch-Prince and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Michael Whiteford. Pictured are Sue Kovacic Otto (top photo), Beth Vander Wilt (middle photo) and Christine Romans (bottom photo). Otto and Vander Wilt received the department's Alumni Educational Achievement Award, while Romans was recognized with the Alumni Professional Achievement Award.

Three alumni honored

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Alumni Professional Achievement Award

Christine Romans Tobin

1993 BA, Journalism & Mass Communication and French, Brooklyn, New York

Christine Romans is an Emmy Award-winning news correspondent for CNN's *Lou Dobbs Tonight*. Most recently, she tackled the trend of U.S. jobs moving overseas as U.S.-based companies improve profits by seeking cheaper labor abroad.

Previously, Romans was an anchor for CNNfn's *Street Sweep*, where she tracked the market's boom through the late 1990s to the economy's swoon from the Sept. 11 attacks. She has investigated the collapse of Enron, WorldCom, and numerous other corporate scams and has reported on corruption from the point of view of the investor. In more than 25 segments for CNN's *Lou Dobbs Tonight*, she exposed misdealings in the mutual fund industry.

Romans has reported extensively on CEO compensation, conflicts of interest in company boards, upheaval at the New York Stock Exchange, the war on terrorism's effect on markets, and the growth of electronic trading.

Romans joined CNN *Business News* in 1999, spending most of her time reporting from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. There, she interviewed everyone from Jon Bon Jovi to Sen. John McCain to New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. From *Street Sweep*'s perch above the trading floor, she has queried hundreds of on-air guests about how investors can protect and grow their nest eggs. Prior to CNN, she reported for Reuters and Knight-Ridder Financial News. □

Calling all alumni

Has your career path been an exciting one? Has it taken you on a straight course, or have you found it leading you in unexpected directions? With the job search behind you, do you have useful advice to share with today's undergraduates?

As the global need has grown for individuals with expertise in world languages, world cultures, and intercultural communication, today's undergraduate students are faced with an overwhelming array of career opportunities. They increasingly seek advice on career options that is best given by those who have experience in the job market, that is our alumni.

In the spirit of improving career guidance for our students, we seek an alumnus/alumna to feature in each issue of the *WLC Newsletter*. The feature will not only provide current students with advice on careers, but will



Thomsen honored by Classical Studies

Amy M. Thomsen

1993 BA, English & Latin; 1996 MA, English & Latin; Urbandale, Iowa

Over 20 years after she graduated from Marshalltown Community College with an associate's degree, Amy Thomsen returned to the classroom at Iowa State.

Here she became the first Iowa State student to earn a graduate minor in Latin.

After graduation, Thomsen went to work as an enrollment counselor/corporate liaison/instructor with William Penn University in West Des Moines. She is now retired from higher education and is currently employed as a part-time ministry support at Johnston Evangelical Free Church in Johnston, Iowa.

Thomsen has given numerous papers at conferences including the Classical Association of the Middle-West and South. □



bring us up to date on the activities of our former students. If you are interested in being featured in a future newsletter, or want to suggest the name of another alumnus/a, please get in touch with **Dave Gieseke**, director of communications, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, dgieseke@iastate.edu or 515-294-7742.

Examples of WLC alumni features can be found online at www.las.iastate.edu/alumni/wlc.shtml including **Gary Stahl** (pictured above), who was featured in the 2005 fall issue. □



Judith Brandlin has founded Stone Soup, an after-school childcare program in Los Angeles.

Helping “our neediest children”

There was a need in Los Angeles for before-school and after-school care.

That’s what Judith Brandlin, a 1964 modern languages graduate of Iowa State, saw when she co-chaired a childcare committee for the United Way in Los Angeles in the mid-’80s.

Brandlin could have announced her committee’s findings and gone on with the rest of her life.

Instead Brandlin made before- and after-school care in the nation’s second biggest city a priority in her life.

“There was a need for after-school programs,” Brandlin said. “The few programs that were available weren’t affordable to many of the families in the Los Angeles area.”

Brandlin founded Stone Soup Child Care Programs in Encino, Calif., in 1986. The not-for-profit program is dedicated to assuring high quality, safe, dependable and affordable after-school care for more than 4,000 children in 86 schools located in 20 low-income communities in some of the toughest gang neighborhoods in southern and central California.

Stone Soup has come a long way from its initial year in business when Brandlin, who remains the president of the organization, and two other staff members provided a program for 17 students.

Now Stone Soup has more than 350 employees.

Currently individualized programs are offered for pre-kindergarten children (“Pebble Soup”), elementary age children (“Stone Soup”) and middle school students (“Teen Soup”) both before- and after-school.

But the program’s main priority is students enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade.

“The children that are not great achievers in the classroom, studies show that by the time they finish second grade they don’t want to be in school anymore,” Brandlin said. “I saw a need and decided to see what I could do about it.”

The popularity of the program has expanded outside of Los Angeles where other communities in California and across the nation have emulated it.

“Los Angeles has many, many poor areas and we decided the only way to make a program like Stone Soup work was to make it not only affordable, but get the parents to buy into it,” Brandlin said. “We listen to the needs of the families we serve and have adjusted some of our offerings based on those discussions.”

It’s not only the parents who have bought into Stone Soup. Brandlin works in a partnership with school administrators, teachers, government officials, community programs and businesses by “pooling resources to create a hearty ‘soup’ of services that provide a safe, after-school haven for our neediest children.”

Stone Soup provides homework supervision, learning centers, arts and enrichment, community service, statewide contests, field trips and even summer programs. Guest artists and professional musicians are brought in to work with the children.

“With the cutbacks in the arts and sports in Los Angeles California Schools, Stone Soup exposes kids to what they don’t see in the schools,” Brandlin said. “These activities make school more fun and interesting for the students, many of which have had negative experiences in the classroom. It was also very beneficial for them to be with friends in an adult supervised environment where parents and teachers report improvement in their social skills.

“Many of these kids grow up with violence daily in their lives. I hope we’re making a difference in their lives.”

Based on Stone Soup’s self-evaluations it would appear that the program is making a difference. Yearly surveys indicate that 80% of the program’s participants enjoy school much more after being in the program.

“The quality of our programs is important to us,” Brandlin said. “We want to make sure we continue to develop and grow as we need to.” □

Nominations sought for WLC alumni awards

Foreign languages have been taught at Iowa State from the university's inception in the 19th century. It was not until 1899 that the Department of Modern Languages was formed and foreign language study became a permanent part of the academic curriculum. In 1969 the department was renamed Department of Foreign Languages in order to allow for the teaching of Latin and Classical Greek. In 1977 the department name was changed to Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to bring visibility to its dual curricular focus. On July 1, 2006, we became the Department of World Languages and Cultures to better encompass the scope of the department's mission and responsibilities with regard to Iowa State University's strategic plan.

Since 1970, over 1100 students have graduated from the combined departments of Modern Languages and Foreign Languages and Literatures. We will continue to add to these numbers as the newly named Department of

World Languages and Cultures.

As a way to recognize the many diverse achievements and contributions of our graduates, the department has established an Alumni Achievement Award to be presented each fall during ISU Homecoming Week. The award recognizes alumni achievement in education and in the professions, which includes business and industry. Our alumni have made an impact locally, nationally, and internationally through their contributions to education, medicine, politics, social services, business, industry, and to many other fields. Communication, culture, compassion, and creativity are our strengths!

Please consider nominating an alumnus/alumna whom you believe has made an impact through his or her professional or personal achievements. Nomination forms are available on-line at: www.language.iastate.edu/main/ad/alm/default.html. ☐

WLC Alumni and Friends Update

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

The information that you provide to us will be used to update our 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? _____

Year(s) of graduation: _____

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

Current employment: _____

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

Please complete and return to us by FAX the completed form to (515) 294-9914 or e-mail us at csjames@iastate.edu.



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Department of World Languages & Cultures
3102 Pearson Hall
Ames, IA 50011-2205