



SRU
MODERN
LANGUAGES
AND
CULTURES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MLC Newsletter

DECEMBER, 2005

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Fully restored Carruth Rizza Hall Building
- State of the Art Modern Languages and Cultures Lab
- Technologically enhanced classrooms.



The Department of Modern Languages and Cultures at Slippery Rock University offers the academic community a particularly strong and significant link to the world. Students and faculty participate in a great number of cultural activities that enrich their lives and that of Western Pennsylvania as a region.

It is my pleasure to present this first issue of our Newsletter where we would like to feature the accomplishments of our faculty and students and share them with the community.

Academically, we currently offer majors in French and Spanish, as well as minors in Asian Studies (where we offer up to 4 semesters of instruction in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean), French, German, Russian and

Spanish. 637 students are currently enrolled in language classes at all levels for the Spring 2006 semester. 24 of them have declared a major in French and 65 have declared a major in Spanish. We also have 95 declared minors in all languages.

Beginning with the Fall 2005 semester, any language class can be used to fulfill the Global Community Goal course for the Liberal Studies Program as well as the enrichment area. We know that this positive development in the university requirements will allow our students to become better prepared to meet the world on its own terms. What a difference it makes to be able to approach someone from another culture and let them know that you care enough to get to know their language and be able to communicate with them from their perspective.

As for the department accomplishments this year, I would like to highlight the technology updates we have been able to provide to all classrooms in Carruth Rizza Hall. This semester we have added Prometheus units to two classrooms and are about to complete the last classroom. We have also been able to add server space for all our needs thanks to a Technology Fee Grant we obtained in 2004. A Title VI European Studies grant has allowed us to dramatically increase our holdings in audiovisual materials.



We have purchased over 70 new titles in several languages.

Our faculty members have also been very active during these past few months with workshop offerings, research and conference travel, study abroad programs. As for our students, they have had wonderful academic experiences on campus and abroad.

If you are interested in detailed information about the department please visit our site at <http://www.sru.edu/pages/8035.asp> or visit the beautifully renovated Carruth Rizza Hall right across from the US postal office.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues in the department and our students for helping us maintain quality programs and our wonderfully efficient secretary, Ms. Karen Hogg, who makes the job easier for all.

Cordially yours,

Eva Tsuquiashi-Daddesio

MLC FACULTY AND STAFF

Ana María Caula, Assistant Professor of Spanish

Dr. Caula comes from Venezuela, has a doctoral degree in Spanish and specializes in

women's issues and children's literature in Spanish. With Dr. Daddesio, she has organized the Hispanic Month celebrations for the past two years. On November 2 she brought Ricardo Iznaola, a famous Venezuelan guitar player to close this year's celebrations. Her article "Género y nación en la narrativa de Teresa de la Parra" has been accepted for publication.

Deb Cohen, Professor of Spanish

Dr. Deb specializes in Central American theater and travels regularly to countries in the area. She

has directed several plays in Spanish with student actors. She hosts a weekly music radio program every Thursday at 4 p.m. where she features music from all over the world. Deb Cohen will present a paper on historical theatre in Costa Rica at the annual meeting of the Latin American Studies Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico in March 2006

Tom Daddesio, Assistant Professor of French and Spanish

Dr. Daddesio helps to bring foreign artists to the campus through the International Arts and Cultures Series.

With Dr. Caula, he has organized the Hispanic Month celebrations. He also organizes the annual Focus on French Week celebration. This year the highlight was the campus visit of the couple of French artists Michèle Caillaud-Houël and Thierry Kayo. His article "La representación de la mujer en *Lola vende ca de Soler*" has just been accepted for publication.

Gisela González-Dieter, Instructor of Spanish

Professor González-Dieter comes from Panama, and is finishing her doctoral degree on Latin American

Literature at the University of Pittsburgh.

Melinda Ristvey, Professor of Spanish

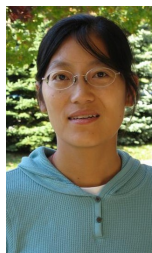
Dr. Ristvey is a specialist in applied linguistics and is our department liaison with the College of Education. She teaches

a course on teaching methods in foreign languages and was instrumental in creating the popular Elementary Education Spanish minor. She created the study abroad program in Spain. She will take 18 students for the Alcalá de Henares Spring 2006 Study Abroad Program.

Seongkyu Roh, Instructor of Korean

Dr. Roh comes from Kangwon National University in Korea through an agreement between SRU and his

university. He teaches all Korean courses and has greatly increased the number of enrolled students.

**Shen Lei, Instructor of Chinese**

Professor Shen Lei, comes from the University of Nanjing in China through an

agreement between her university and SRU. She teaches all Chinese courses and has shown great interest in recruiting students in Chinese.

Charles Tichy, Professor of German and Russian

Dr. Tichy has written a Russian language textbook and is a specialist in interactive television classes which he has been teaching for several years in collaboration with Clarion University and Edin-

boro University. He also organizes study abroad trips to Germany and Russia.

Naoko Toba Rotunno, Instructor of Japanese.

Professor Toba Rotunno has taught at SRU for 4 years and has helped

to greatly increase the number of students in Japanese.

Eva Tsuquiashi-Daddesio, Professor of French and Spanish, Chairperson

Among Dr. Tsuquiashi-Daddesio's interests are the uses of technology in the language classroom

to offer students innovative learning methods, the literature of French speaking Asian cultures and Latin American culture including that of the descendants of Asian immigrants. As chairperson, she is working towards strengthening all language offerings in the department.

Karen Hogg, Department Secretary

Helps students and faculty accomplish their goals. Ms. Hogg is committed to making bureaucracy

seamless to everyone related to the department.

MLC STUDENT STAFF

Fall 2005

Student workers Staff:

Wendy Bolivar, Spanish Assistant and Moderator of Spanish Conversation Sessions.

Jill Fersch, Lab
Rose Iksic, Lab, French
Amanda Lane, Lab
Andrew Miller, Lab
Laurel Mitchell, Photographer
Danielle Reed, Office
Volha Smirnova, Russian and

German
Raissa Weiss, Office, Lab

Student workers help run the office and they manage the language laboratory.

LANGUAGE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS ADVISORS AND STUDENT PRESIDENTS

Spanish Club:

Professor Gisela González-Dieter
President: Keith Enriquez

Russian Club:

Dr. Charles Tichy
President: Dawnelle Matijevich

Japanese Club:

Professor Naoko Toba
President: Robert Henry

Korean Club:

Dr. Seongkyu Roh
President: Robert J. Vighetti

French Club:

Dr. Thomas Daddesio & Dr. Eva Tsuquiashi-Daddesio
President: Rose Iksic

German Club:

Dr. Charles Tichy
President: Ashley Hockenberger

Pi Delta Phi French National Honorary Society:

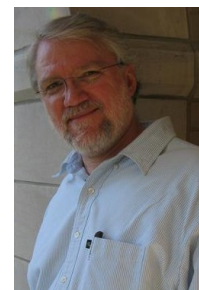
Dr. Eva Tsuquiashi-Daddesio
President: Jamie Pfister

Sigma Delta Pi Spanish National Honorary Society:

Dr. Deb Cohen
President: Jacob Moore

Dobro Slovo Slavic Languages National Honorary Society

Dr. Charles Tichy



Dr. George Brown, Political Science is the director of Asian Studies. Asian Languages we teach are part of the Asian Studies minor.

LANGUAGE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

2006 Spring Study Abroad Program in Spain:
Dr. Melinda Ristvey

2006 Summer Study Abroad Program in Costa Rica:
Dr. Deb Cohen

2006 Summer Study Abroad Program in France:
Dr. Eva Tsuquiashi-Daddesio

2006 Summer Study Abroad Program in Spain:
Dr. Ana María Caula

2006 Spring Study Abroad Program in France:
Dr. Eva Tsuquiashi-Daddesio

2006 Summer Study Abroad Program in Germany:
Dr. Charles Tichy

Study Abroad Modern Languages Scholarships. These scholarships are possible with the contributions of the Modern Languages Department faculty and friends.

Don't miss deadlines for applications

Fall & Spring Programs (\$1000): November 20 of each year.

Summer (\$500): April 20 of each year.

Spring 2006 French Study Abroad Program Participants are: Wendy Bolivar, Jill Fersch, Jenna Hockensmith, Rose Iksic, Laryssa Straub, and Kristen Work..

Spring 2006 Spanish Study Abroad participants are: Tabitha Artman, Jennifer Basich, Mitchell Berends, Bryan Berns, John Burket, Amanda Froelich, Lisa Haines, Rachel Householder,

Chiara Laconi, Ashley Leithner, Anthony Luzius, Stacey McFeely, Chalsie Redfoot, Elizabeth Renda, Christian Riley, Erin Robertson, and Kristy Welsh.



Rose Iksic

The winner of this year's Modern Languages and Cultures Study Abroad Scholarship is Rose Iksic, French Major.

MLC COMPUTER LANGUAGE LAB

The language lab is used for classes that use the Virtuoso/Soloist software for paired work with any of the 30 computers available and for direct individual communication with the instructor. This system was purchased in 2003 with the student technology fee through a grant awarded to our department.

In the language lab you can find movies in French, Spanish, German, and Russian. These past summer we

added about 100 titles with the help of a Title VI grant.

You will find digital dictionaries in French, German, Spanish and Russian as well as other language learning software in the languages we teach.

The language lab is currently set for you to write in most of the western languages we teach. Starting next semester you will be able to input Asian languages as well.



DEPARTMENTAL FALL 2005 EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Hispanic Heritage Month:

The highlight of this year's celebrations was the visit by Venezuelan Professor and Concert Guitarist Ricardo Iznaola at the Alumni House Reception Room which was a complete success with a full room.



Focus on French Week

The exhibit, classroom and campus presentations by French painter Michèle Caillaud-Houël and French sculptor Thierry Kayo gave students a first-hand experience of original works and also the possibility of interacting in French with the artists.



Regina Jeannette, Spanish Major was inducted in the prestigious Phi Kappa Phi National Honorary Society in 2005.

Majors and Minors Reception

Students, faculty and staff enjoyed a social afternoon getting to know other language majors and minors in the department as well as finding information on all programs we offer.

In this event, we honored the winners of last year's Modern Languages Study Abroad Scholarships. The semester program winner was Jacob Moore a Spanish major who studied in Spain, and the summer program winner was John



Mabold a French major and German minor who will use his scholarship for the German



study abroad program this summer.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The French Club has organized a **Mardi Gras celebration** that will be held on Friday February 10th from 10pm-1am at the Carruth Rizza Hall Lobby and Lounge.

The Department will hold its **2006 World Languages Competition** on Tuesday February 21st, from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. About 1,000 high school students will attend.

MLC students will participate as proctors and in other administrative tasks. This assignment counts towards the field experience required of Education majors.

ALUMNI NEWS

Laurie Emery (May 2005) B. A. in French and Spanish is working at Butler Elementary School.

Kayla Whipkey (May 2005) B.S. Education-Spanish is teaching Spanish at Bohemia Manor High School, in Chesapeake City, Maryland. She moved there the beginning of August. "The school and students are wonderful - I'm having a wonderful time!"

Katie Snedeker (2005) B. A. in French is working in Cagnes-sur-mer for a year in a French Lycée teaching English to French students and practicing her French.

Lisa Banyas, (May 2004) B.A. in Spanish is working for VISTA at the New Hampshire Technical Institute since August 2005.

Carrie Eakin, (May 2004) B.A. in Spanish and was accepted

in the graduate program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is pursuing a Master's Degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

Jorrell Kemp, (May 2004) B.A. in Spanish is currently living in Madrid, Spain and working as an English teacher in Alcalá de Henares.

Robert Fagley, (May 2000) B.A. in French and is working on his Ph. D. in French Literature at the University of Pittsburgh. He is an editor of the literary review *Anfrage*.

Jonathan Sosa (May 200) is manager at USIS in Grove City.

Susan Rice (2001) is teaching English en France and will be applying to an ESL/Bilingual Education graduate school program at the University of Maryland.

Patricio Ferrari, (May 1999) B. A. in French and B. A. in Philosophy. He obtained the French Licence in Comparative Literature in 2003 and successfully defended his Master's Thesis in Comparative Literature at the Université de la Sorbonne-Nouvelle in Paris, France in September 2004. He is now preparing a doctorate in Comparative Literature on Pessoa and Borges.

Charles Grove, (1990), B. S. in Spanish, completed a Ph.D. in applied linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh. He is currently Associate Professor of languages and linguistics and coordinator of the foreign language certification program at West Chester University.

"The school and students are wonderful - I'm having a wonderful time!"
Kayla Whipkey
 (May 2005 graduate)



Student Lounge at CRH

MLC STUDENT'S VOICES

Unforgettable Memories

By Regina Jeannette

(December 2005 graduate, Spanish/Elementary Education)

On January 1, 2004, New Year's Day, I anxiously sat on a plane headed for Madrid, Spain. This was the first day of my semester-long study abroad program in Alcalá de Henares, Spain. I was with five other students from Slippery Rock University, as well as Dr. Melinda Ristvey, who took us over and helped us to adjust those first few weeks.

When I arrived in Spain, and began meeting some of the locals, all of my nervousness quickly went away. The Spanish people truly are extremely friendly, helpful, and open. I felt very welcome in Spain, even as complete strangers began to give me "dos besos," (literally, "two kisses"—actually just touching one's cheek against another's), which I quickly learned is a traditional way of greeting in Spain.

After leaving the Barajas Airport in Madrid, I was taken by bus to the historical town of Alcalá de Henares, where I would live and study for the next four months. Alcalá is famous for a few reasons. Firstly, it is where Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes, (author of *Don Quijote de la Mancha*), was born. In addition, this ancient city, with strong Roman Renaissance influences, was the world's first city that was built around a college university—La Universidad de Alcalá.

I studied at this university's "Spanish for foreigners" col-

lege. I took a total of 15 credits, ranging from Spanish grammar and conversation to Spanish literature and civilization. The professors, like most of the Spaniards I encountered, were very laid-back and kindhearted people. Classes were structured classes to be very interactive; speaking in Spanish was a must! This was a great experience for me, not only because I had the opportunity to significantly improve on my oral Spanish communication skills, but also because it enabled me to meet tons of different people. I had the chance to get to know students from all over the world—Japan, Iceland, Italy, and Denmark, to name a few. It was very interesting to see so many people from different cultures get together with one sole purpose—to learn the Spanish language!

During my semester there, I had the chance to do some traveling around Spain. In the close-by city of Toledo, our group visited famous cathedrals and castles, and saw how artisans created both gold jewelry and swords. In Segovia, another close-by city, we saw the famous ten mile-long aqueduct, made over 2,000 years ago by the Romans, without the use of mortar or concrete. To this day, the aqueduct still carries water. El Alcázar de Segovia, (or the castle of Segovia), was another one of our stops. No wonder this castle looked familiar to me—it is said that this is what inspired the Walt Disney castle.

During Easter break, I was fortunate enough to travel to Andalucía, southern Spain.



Regina Jeannette (left) in front of the Alhambra in Granada with her roommate.

My first stop was Granada—a beautiful Arabic-influenced city, home of the very famous Alhambra. This brightly-colored, cultural, yet modern city was definitely my favorite. Next, my group went to Sevilla, also in the Andalucía region. We were there during Holy Week, (Semana Santa), when Sevilla's streets are filled with tons of people, who come to watch processions in preparation for Easter. Hooded penitents march in these long processions followed by huge baroque floats on which sit images of the Virgin or Christ. This is something that one must experience for in order to fathom. We also saw an incredible flamenco show, which is the traditional dance of Spain, and very typical in Sevilla. Next, we visited Sevilla's Cathedral—the third largest in all of Europe, and the largest in Spain.

My semester in Spain quickly flew by, and before I knew it I was on a plane again, this time headed back to Pittsburgh. However, my Spain trip is one that I truly will never forget. In those four months, I met so many wonderful people, (some with whom I still communicate), traveled to numerous fascinating places, and of course, reinforced my strong love for the Spanish language and culture.



Colegio de los Irlandeses where language classes are taught in Alcalá de Henares

I felt very welcome in Spain, even as complete strangers began to give me "dos besos,"

MLC STUDENT'S VOICES

Exploring, Learning and Enjoying the World

By Vincent Celender

(December 2005 graduate,
French)

Only a few of my friends have had the opportunity to explore foreign territory and fewer have had the opportunity to study abroad. It is my goal to convey to you, the reader, the importance of traveling and/or studying abroad. Firstly, it is imperative to remember that traveling should not exclusively entail visiting each historical landmark of a foreign location, but rather, the ambition to experience its culture. Vacations of shorter duration (1-2 weeks) can be stressful and obviously do not allow sufficient time to experience other cultures' ethnicities, languages, foods and architecture. This is why I encourage more than anything to study abroad.

For three and a half months, thanks to Slippery Rock's awesome exchange program and French professor Dr. Eva Tsuquiashi-Daddesio, I relaxed on the French Riviera in the city of Cannes. The collège is no more than thirty meters from the never-ending, topless beach on the Mediterranean. When you return from class in the morning, from your balcony, you can look beyond the haven of palm trees and the ubiquitous seagulls and see the ostentatious cruise-liners heading for the annual film festival of Cannes. Walking on the red carpet in close proximity to Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie is also quite an unforgettable experience!

Weekends and school breaks allow adequate time to gam-

ble in the casinos of Monte Carlo, Monaco, to drink absinthe in the crazed streets of Barcelona until seven in the morning, or to get jumped by a group of neo-Nazis in the neutral country of Switzerland and live happily to tell about it! Do not forget that during these unforgettable experiences, no matter where one studies abroad, you are taking twelve to eighteen credits while rapidly learning the culture's language and so much about its people. The best part is, it's practically the same price as doing a semester here at Slippery Rock University.

I was also lucky enough to study abroad in Central America for one month this past summer. Six other Slippery Rock students and I had the chance to watch toucans from our hammocks in the rainforests of Costa Rica, thanks to Spanish Professor Dr. Deborah Cohen and former ambassador Julio Chaves. We circled vast volcanoes via boat, saw an endless amount of wildlife (from sloths to leaf-cutting ants), and biked through the Rastafarian populated towns of the inexplicably, gorgeous Caribbean coast.

To sum things up, traveling to these exotic locations has taught me so much; however, I choose not to reveal these teachings... find out for yourself. Do not be afraid to leave the United States for a month or three. Go learn, go experience the unimaginable and return to encourage others to do the same.

With Slippery Rock's staff of amiable professors and its more than 20 study abroad locations, it is relatively easy to go do what most of your



Dr. Deb's SRU group. The El Arenal volcano is in the back.

friends, and most Americans haven't.

Ultimately, traveling and studying abroad have changed my life. I can now speak close to three languages and thanks to that, I will be returning to Cannes, France at the beginning of January, to do an internship for six months. I hope that you will consider following the advice of a language major... it might just change your life.

"... traveling and studying abroad have changed my life...consider following the advice of a language major... it might just change your life."



Collège International de Cannes. Vince obtained a work study scholarship to return during the Spring 2006.

POETS' CORNER

"Goodbye, Eddie"

De: Lacey E. Hiles (Spanish 103)

Yo te echo de menos, Eddie
Tu sonrisa aclaró el cielo
Las cosas no son lo mismo, no
Y yo no te olvidaré
Ni la esperanza que tú me diste a mí

No te has ido
Estás aquí, en el espíritu
Y yo te presento, sonriendo a tus
Amigos, familia y a los que tú adoras
Ahora y para siempre, estás en nuestros
sueños

La gente nunca fracasa
¡Viva la raza!

**SRU
MODERN LANGUAGES AND
CULTURES**

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pages/8035.asp](http://www.sru.edu/pages/8035.asp)

«Mon bonheur, mais ma peur»

Par: Gina Stalma
(French Major)

Mon doux rocher fort, sois certain
Que je me sens si chanceuse
Et que je suis amoureuse
Ce temps-là, tenant à ta main.

Mon seul sauveur, me supportant,
Tu m'assures d'un bon futur
Qui sera plus stable, plus sûr
Dans notre monde exigeant.
Mais...

Je redoute, j'ai peur, je crains,
Ma racine précieuse,
Que la terre soit voleuse
Et que le sol, trop tôt, ait faim.

Quitter vite tous sentiments,
À cause de sa grande censure,
Ne sera pas un acte dur.
Je nourrirai ton enterrement.

**COMMUNICATE
WITH THE WORLD**

**LEARN ANOTHER
LANGUAGE**

Photography: Laurel Mitchell (Art—French) except
for pictures with students' articles
Editor: Eva Tsuquiashi-Daddesio
Editorial Staff: Karen Hogg

