

Events

September 2

Study Abroad Fair
MSC Rotunda, 10:30-1:30

November 12

Languages Major/Minor Open
House
10:30-12:30

November 14

UMSL Day
Touhill, 11:00-4:00

February 1

Student Logo Contest Deadline

March 7-13

Foreign Language Week

Language Groups

China-America Corner

Chinese Language Table
Tuesdays 2:00-3:00
Clark 542

Friends without Borders
Fridays 1:00-3:00
Nosh

Japanese-English Language
Exchange
Mondays 4:00-5:00
Clark 542

Japanese Table (JELE)
Mondays 4:00-5:00
MSC Fireside Social Lounge

Kaffeestunden
1st and 3rd Thursdays, 12:00-2:00
German Culture Center

La Mesa De Español
Wednesdays 3:00-4:00
Nosh

La Table Française
Wednesdays 2:00-3:00
Nosh



Department of Language and Cultural Studies

Fall 2015 Newsletter



The academic year 2015-16 is proving to be a challenging and exciting year of adjustment and change. When the Department of Language and Cultural Studies re-emerged as a free-standing unit on July 1, we heard from many students who urged us to help them develop the professional



skills they would need to compete on the job market or apply for graduate study. We therefore doubled our efforts in the areas of Translation Studies and Community Partnerships, and we initiated a series of workshops to help our students market the unique and transferrable skills they develop while experiencing the many meaningful connections between the study of languages and the study of cultures and literatures. These are the same skills that global employers are seeking: flexibility, persistence, critical thinking, team work, oral and written intercultural communication, and much more. As you can see while perusing this newsletter, we have also helped our students gain first-hand knowledge of several parts of the globe by taking them on study tours to the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and France. We look forward to the bi-annual tour to Japan in the Spring and hope to see you at our next Languages gathering here at UMSL.

Best,

Birgit

NEW FACULTY

ROSA BREFELD

Associate Teaching Professor and Coordinator of English for Academic Purposes

Rosa Brefeld has been teaching English as a Second Language all of her professional life. Her many years of teaching ESL mainly in pre-university programs gives her multiple resources to help students improve their English. She enjoys teaching, hiking, traveling, and speaking other languages. As an undergraduate, she majored in French and one of her first professional jobs was in South America where she lived for three years. Recently she completed her doctorate degree in teaching literacy to English language learners.



AMY D'AGROSA

Assistant Teaching Professor

Amy D'Agrosa began her teaching career as a Teaching Assistant at the Department of Modern Languages at Saint Louis University while earning her Master's degree in Spanish. She grew up in Spain, where she attended Nuestra Señora de la Merced, and Saint Louis University in Madrid. She moved to Saint Louis in 1983 to complete her B.A. in History and Spanish, and her M.A. in Spanish with an emphasis on Spanish Golden Age Literature. Amy then worked as an International Student Advisor, serving as a liaison between the Saint Louis and Madrid campuses of Saint Louis University between 1992-1995. As a mother of four Amy worked part-time as a Spanish teacher for elementary and middle school students between 2002-2013. She also co-founded and taught at the Spanish Learning Center, a summer immersion camp for children ages 6-14. She has been teaching at the University of Missouri-St. Louis as an Adjunct Spanish Professor since 2013.



NEW COURSES

Spring 2015:

Spanish 3220: Introduction to Translation

This course introduces students to the theory and practice of translation and interpreting in professional settings. It combines translation/interpretation theory with hands-on practice using a variety of activities from specialized areas, including medical and legal professions. This course has a community-based component.

Fall 2015:

French 3311: Introduction to Special Topics in French Culture

Although this course has been taught before, a whole new topic is being taught by Sue Hendrickson this Fall: Gender and Global Issues in France.

French 4311/5311: Special Topics in French Culture and Literature

As stated above, this course, too, has been taught before, but it comes with a fresh topic: "Tourism in French and Francophone Cultures." Through a discussion of travelogues, short stories, novels, anthropological studies, films, and conceptual art produced since 1948, students will study representations of French tourists in regional, national, and international contexts.

Spring 2016:

French 4301: Methods of Translation in French and English

Students will study comparative French/English syntax and stylistics, investigate translation techniques, and develop skills in translation. Students will also be responsible for a project and a product useful for one of the community partners.

Foreign Language 4100/5100: Language Theories and Global Issues

This course examines how people in different geographical locations and political environments have created linguistic concepts and developed thought processes to make sense of the world as they find it. By placing the study of languages and the creation of meanings in an international educational and cultural context, and by studying key theories on language acquisition, it explores whether the languages we speak do indeed shape the ways we view the world. It draws on first-hand accounts by local immigrant populations to explore the linguistic and ethnic factors that have led to their experience of culture shock.



STUDENT & FACULTY NEWS



Professor Trapani, partnering with Professor Beth Landers at Dominican University, takes students on a study tour to France

Students participating in this year's Strasbourg French Language Program had the unique opportunity to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of the city's majestic cathedral, **Notre Dame de Strasbourg**. Just steps from their dorm in the center of the city, students were treated to a nightly light show depicting the Cathedral's journey through time. During their month-long stay, they combined coursework with tours to sites of interest including the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and the Haut Koenigsbourg Castle. No trip to Alsace would be complete without a day on the Alsatian Wine Road and a tasting at an artisanal brewery. Before heading back to St. Louis, the students capped off their time in France with a stay in Paris.

French Academic Palms recognizes Professor Jeanne Zarucchi

Dr. Jeanne Zarucchi has been named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques (Knight of the Order of Academic Palms). The French Academic Palms recognizes those who have rendered eminent service to French education and have contributed actively to the prestige of French culture. Read more: <http://blogs.umsl.edu/news/2015/07/23/french-award/>

Professors Blank and Hendrickson Win Curriculum Grant

Professors Suzanne Hendrickson and Anne-Sophie Blank were awarded a curriculum grant in the amount of \$7,800 to develop a course in the methodology of translation. The course they envision for Spring 2016 will allow students to translate authentic documents for the Old Courthouse and National Park Services. Both organizations have expressed a need for these translations and have praised the translation work of our students in years past. In following semesters the course will focus on different types of translation, such as medical, legal, commercial, scientific and technical documents. The grant was approved.

Professor Balogh receives recognition for her new book

Professor María Balogh's newest book, *Cumbia Soul* (Cool Way Press), was featured in SLM's monthly book release article. Check out what they had to say here:

<http://www.stlmag.com/arts/literary/read-these-now-three-books-for-august/>

Muhidin Abdimalik granted scholarship increase for French Study Abroad Program

The student of French, who will be spending Fall 2015 at the Centre International d'Etudes Francaises in Angers, France, attended the French Alliance awards ceremony on May 29, 2015, expecting to be awarded \$2,000. He received that – but then was awarded an *additional* \$1,000 for his impressive academic efforts.

From a Calligraphy Course to National Honors



Two UMSL students won awards in the American Association of Teachers of Japanese New Year's card contest. Danielle Minard took first place in the "Comical" category and Andrea Minard took third place in the "Original" category. Both were students in Professor Hiromi Ishikawa's Fall 2014 calligraphy class. To learn more about this contest, visit: <http://www.aatj.org/nengajo-contest/2015-college>

Three Japanese grads earn national honors

Anita Fike, Kristin Kottemann, Susanne Mackay were inducted into the Japanese National Honor Society. Having three inductees in one semester is a new record for the Japanese program at UMSL!

Read more here:

<http://blogs.umsl.edu/news/2015/07/07/japanese-language/>

UMSL's Advising Center Dedicated to Former Chair of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures



Dr. Marcus Allen, who received a PhD in French from the University of Pittsburgh, was honored on September 3 with a dedication ceremony renaming the advising center of the College of Arts and Sciences as the Dr. Marcus Allen Advising Center. The ceremony began with Professor Jeanne Zarucchi's remarks in French. Read more here: <http://blogs.umsl.edu/news/2015/09/09/marcus-allen/>

Japanese Graduate Collaborates with Haven House

Anita Fike, who graduated in 2015 with a B.A in Japanese, completed a service learning project for Haven House in Fall 2014, in which she translated documents that will be used when the organization hosts Japanese families. Anita is now at Washington University in St. Louis working on her M.A. in Japanese.

St. Louis to Leipzig

Seth Huntington, a student of German, won a \$2,500 scholarship for language training in Germany this Fall prior to his enrollment at the University of Leipzig. His German professor, Carol Jenkins, stated, "He embodies UMSL in his recognition of education's defining role in his future success, as well as determination to make the most of it while at school, including the opportunity to study abroad."

Two Japanese majors selected for Third Annual Yosakoi School

In August 2014, two Japanese majors, Thomas Connell and Samantha Jarnagin, were selected to take part in the 3rd annual Yosakoi school at the Kochi University of Technology (KUT). They received a scholarship that covered nearly all the costs of participation. The main activity of this program was joining an international team of students participating at the Yosakoi Festival. More information can be found here: <http://www.kochi-tech.ac.jp/kut/E/topics.htm?id=77>

Tropical Forestry and Spanish Fluency with Professors Yoder-Kreger and Balogh



Eighteen UMSL students and Professors Yoder-Kreger and Balogh spent two weeks in Costa Rica and earned 3 credits in Spanish during Winter Intersession 2015. The students' first weekend was spent in a tropical rainforest, where they learned about the rainforest ecosystem. They also visited one of the protected beaches for nesting sea turtles in Totuguero National Park. Students stayed with host families San José and attended language classes during the day at the CRLA (Costa Rica Language Academy). Each student maintained a personal journal about their experiences and then gave a presentation in Spanish to the other group members upon their return. It was an experience that will stay with them forever.

UMSL graduate and student of Japanese lands job at Harley-Davidson

Rosella Ledermann, newly graduated senior and student of Japanese, exemplifies how jobs can at times be found in unexpected places. After returning from Japan in the fall of 2014, she was recruited by Global Products, Inc, a Missouri-based provider of Harley-Davidson accessories. Earlier in her UMSL career, Ledermann was selected to go to Waseda University for study abroad. This prestigious university allows only one student per year from UMSL. Let's congratulate Rosella on her continued success.

Read more here:

<http://blogs.umsil.edu/news/2015/05/13/ledermann/>

Professor Abeln takes students on a study tour to the Dominican Republic



A group of Spanish students went to the Dominican Republic in May for two weeks of intensive language and culture classes and completed several service learning projects. The projects included installing water filters for local at-risk families that will provide clean drinking water for ten years and completing surveys with families about their needs. The students also traveled and visited many historical and cultural sites in and around Santo Domingo. The trip was a success for the students and we hope that an even larger group will be able to participate next May.



Professor Hiromi Ishikawa with students on Japan Study Tour 2014

We would love to hear from Alumni!

Please send us your career updates, recent accomplishments, and any other news you want to share. We are working on a "News from Alumni" section for our Spring 2016 newsletter.

Susanne Evans Presents Her Workshop on the Art of Foreign Languages



On October 29, Susanne Evans, founder and CEO of AAA Translation, shared her more than 20 years of experience in international business development experience with Languages students at UMSL. In this interactive workshop, she sketched how she developed her own business from occasional part-time translation work into a global consulting and translation company that provides comprehensive foreign language services, including translation, interpretation, market research, cross-cultural training, global website design, and much more. She is fluent in German and English, and has studied French, Spanish, Italian, and Russian.

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