

EVENTS

November 9

Major and Minor Open
House
10:30-AM-12:30PM
Clark 527

November 11

UMSL Day
Come visit with the
Language Faculty at the
Touhill.

December 7

Alumni Happy Hour
4-6PM
Ferguson Brewing
Company

March 5-11

National Foreign
Language Week
Includes poetry reading,
international films and
cuisine.

LANGUAGE GROUPS

Alpha Mu Gamma

China-America Corner

Friends Without
Borders

HISLA

Japanese-English
Language Table

Kaffeestunden

La Table Française

LINGUA

UMSL | Alumni

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI—ST. LOUIS

Department of Language and Cultural Studies

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

Note from the Chair

These stories about our students and their accomplishments are inspiring to read! Whether we find them in rewarding internships where they serve the larger St. Louis community or on study tours where they serve the people of the Dominican Republic, our students are outstanding ambassadors of the Department of Language and Cultural Studies. As they challenge themselves to experience new and unfamiliar cultural contexts, they also enrich the department, the university, and the St. Louis area. They bring back a wealth of intercultural perspectives that help all of us understand and empathize with people whose circumstances are very different from our own. In addition, these students and recent graduates are key players in getting the word out that studying languages and cultures truly matters. Seeing them on billboards all over the St. Louis Metro area

is a testament to their accomplishments.

To learn more about our students watch our video [here](#).

I have felt deeply honored to serve as Department Chair over the last four years and truly value the relationships I have formed with this amazing group of colleagues, students, and friends. As I transition to my new role of Associate Dean of Students in the College of Arts and Sciences, I will remain close to Language and Cultural Studies, both physically and academically. I look forward to continuing and expanding my role as student advocate, and I plan to keep teaching "Languages and World Views" for as long as the department will let me.

Birgit



Featured Story: Latino Outreach



Kim Castizo (left), a double major in our *Dual Language Professional Track* (French and Spanish) and in Social Work, took *Advanced Internship in Spanish* (Spanish 4394), in summer 2017. She interned at the Latino Outreach Program of St. Louis Crisis Nursery and received high praise from her supervisor. Here is her final reflection about her experience:

"Working at the Latino Outreach Program was an eye-opening experience. I learned so much, not just about me, but also about the Latino population. One would have thought that being a Latina myself, there wasn't

much more to learn; I was wrong. I was able to have a first-hand experience on the various adversities this population is experiencing. Most of the clients come to the program because they are in a crisis and need immediate help. These crises ranged from needing financial assistance to obtaining restraining orders due to intimate partner violence. My learning only grew through the research paper I had to write. I researched the various barriers the Latino population faces with the welfare systems and the benefits of programs like Latino Outreach. Each immigrant's story is a unique one, yet they all have one goal in common: a better life for them and for their family. For many of these people, the Latino Outreach Program is like a guardian angel, helping them along the way to reach their goal.

Most importantly, this experience allowed me to grow professionally and personally. I enjoyed being able to incorporate both my Spanish skills and my social work skills. Yet, what I enjoyed the most was seeing how content and reassured people felt when I helped them, even with the simplest thing. From this experience, I have realized the great need for bilingual social workers to help bridge the gap for the Latino population. This is a one-of-a-kind experience that I will remember and cherish as it has provided me with the privilege of meeting and helping some of the strongest people."

Study Abroad

UMSL Students take on the Dominican Republic



A group of Spanish students traveled to the Dominican Republic in May and June for a unique language immersion and service learning program. Students spent their first week studying Spanish and visiting important sites around Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic. During week two, they moved to rural settlements around sugar mills, also known as bateys, where they completed service projects. UMSL Students led workshops on entrepreneurship and business planning for Las palmillas, a women's co-op in Hato Mayor Province; they also helped construct a product display area for the same co-op.

"Studying Aboard has been one of the best experiences I had in college. I am so glad I did my last semester of Spanish in the Dominican Republic. This program prepared me for the Peace Corps volunteer program that helps people outside the USA. I learned so much. Made new friends. And left with great memories. If I could give advice to anyone starting college, I would tell them to study aboard!!!!" - Zohal Mohammad, Dominican Republic

Join Us on our next big trips to

Costa Rica: December 29-January 14

Students will improve their Spanish and immerse themselves in Costa Rican culture by living with host families. They will also visit important cultural, historical, and architectural sites in San Jose, and take excursions to Tortuguero National Park and Tortuga Island.

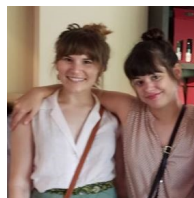
Japan: May 14-30, 2018

Students will visit Tokyo, Nikko, Kyoto, and Nara. The program will include language study, museum, company and government agency visits. Some of the highlights of the tour include a Japanese tea ceremony, temple and shrine visits, and soba making.

A Summer in Strasbourg

The eleven students participating in this year's Strasbourg French Language Program benefitted from a new partnership with Stralang, a private language school and member of Campus France. For the first time, students combined coursework at the language school with classes, projects and tours directed by Professor Trapani. The classes at Stralang are led by native speakers and include students from around the globe.

During the program, two students had the unique opportunity to work on a professional translation project. Claire Roederer, Associate Professor and Head of the Strategic and Operational Marketing Track at the École de Management in Strasbourg, reached out looking for American students who might be interested in working to translate student interviews centering on group consumerism among roommates. Abby Naumann and Elizabeth Engemann (pictured right) rose to the challenge and each completed a ten page translation of the transcripts. Their work will be part of a forthcoming scholarly article.



"Looking back, I think it was the hardest but most important French assignment I've ever had. The vocabulary was not very difficult, like reading a new Zola novel or something, but it was repetitive (which helped me learn) and so organic. It is so helpful to read modern, real dialogue and think critically about it.

Specifically in reference to translation, there were lots of stylistic choices to make, and I really enjoyed the challenge and task of doing that. Sometimes the translation was easy, sometimes it was very, very time-consuming and frustrating when a paragraph was confusing.

Overall, I'm really proud of it, and I think it's a great thing to have in my portfolio." - Abby Nauman, Strasbourg, France

Abroad in Germany



Renee Kocsis (right), featured in the UMSL daily, was quoted about her time in Germany: "My experience so far has been a whirlwind," she said. "During my first month

here, I was quite nervous about acclimating to the German lifestyle and language. I felt exhausted all the time, which I found out is completely normal when you're living in a new country where everything is different. It took some time to establish a routine." - Renee Kocsis, Bonn, Germany

Shane Kluge, one of our German minors, is spending the year in Bremen, Germany. He is a Business major with an emphasis in International Business and is using this study abroad opportunity to deepen his understanding of German language and culture.

Faculty News

Promotions



Beth Eckelkamp, Teaching Professor of Japanese, is UMSL's first Associate Provost for Student Success. Eckelkamp will work directly with deans, directors, advisers and other campus administrators to design and implement an aggressive university wide strategy for the improvement of undergraduate student retention and graduation rates. She will collaborate especially closely with colleagues in Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Institutional Research, Enrollment Management, and Equity and Inclusion in pursuit of that goal.

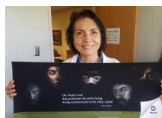


Birgit Noll, Teaching Professor of Modern Languages, has been promoted to Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. "It (will) be a great pleasure and privilege to play a leadership role in advising and orienting our students, to help them define and achieve their goals, and to watch their transformation as they engage in learning, extra-curricular activities, internships, study abroad, and many other life-changing educational experiences."

Faculty Presentations & Publications

Marité Balogh, Associate Teaching Professor of Spanish, will have her poem "Oh, Empty Look" featured in the Metro Arts in Transit Project.

*"Oh Empty look
that penetrates the entire being
doing summersaults in the chest, exiled."*



Denise Mussman, Teaching Professor in EAP, published an article titled "Activities for ITAS to Practice Leading Discussions" in the International Teaching Assistants Interest Section (ITAIS) Newsletter.

Rosa Brefeld, Associate Teaching Professor of EAP, has been appointed as a Fellow in International Studies and Programs (ISP) for the 2017-2018 Academic year.

Welcome New Faculty



John H. Trevathan, Assistant Teaching Professor of Spanish, specializes in modern and contemporary Hispanic literatures and cultures with particular interests in the environmental humanities and Iberian studies. John will offer a new course on the Culture of Refuge. He is also developing "Spanish for the Sciences" to help students study environmental and scientific discourses in Spanish.



Natasha César Suárez, Assistant Teaching Professor of Spanish, has a deep commitment to learning language in an immersion environment and will lead our study abroad tour to the Dominican Republic next summer. Her teaching and research interests focus on 20th and 21st century Latin American and Hispanic Caribbean literatures and cultures. She is passionate about US Latina/o literature and culture, Spanish as Second/Foreign Language, and intersections between literature and foreign language teaching.

New Family Members



Violaine White and her family welcomed their first baby girl, Julia Lauren.



Amy Michael is a new mom! Meet Fiona Quinn.



Spring Course Offerings

Foreign Language Careers for the Global Market (FL 2294)

This one credit course explores a range of careers in the US and abroad in which knowledge of foreign languages and cross-cultural awareness are essential. Students learn about the education, training and skills necessary for various career-fields in the public and private sectors. Through guest presentations students become familiar with employment and internship opportunities in various industries.

Culture of the Refuge in Spain and Latin America (Spanish 4311/5311)

This course will focus on figures of the refugee and the fugitive in order to recast the notion of the refuge itself in light of contemporary movements of global migration. Students will engage with films, letters, poems, essays short stories, podcasts and interviews from a wide variety of contexts from Spain and Latin America in order to think comparatively about how narratives of refugees and fugitives are constructed and what the consequences may be.

New Next Fall

Spanish for the Sciences focuses on scientific and environmental questions, debates and discourses in Spanish. We will analyze various socio-historical situations to frame issues such as biodiversity, water scarcity, oil spills, wildfires and ecotourism. We will also consider cultural responses to scientific and environmental problems, including documentaries, podcasts, poetry and visual artwork to offer students a broad range of voices and help us think comparatively about some of the most pressing issues facing humanity today.

Student & Alumni News

Seeing our faces around town?

Two UMSL Graduates with degrees in Modern Languages are featured on Billboards in Missouri!



Kristy Gammill chose Nidec Motor Corporation after graduating with her degree in Modern Languages— Japanese from UMSL. Her other option would have taken her to Japan as a coordinator for international relations through a highly selective exchange program. She chose to stay in St. Louis where she is deeply involved in the local Japanese community.



Sarah Rizzo, a recent graduate with a dual major in French and Business, found her dream job as Senior Analyst at Anheuser-Busch InBev during her last semester at UMSL. By combining her background in Languages and Cultures with her training in Business, she brings a unique perspective to her global work environment.

Student Recognition

Congratulations to

- Renee Kocsis on being invited to Ohio State University's German Language Conference, Graduate School Experience.
- Seth Huntington for being awarded the JASSO Scholarship for Study Abroad at Rikkyo University.
- our Japanese Students who have been inducted into the Japanese Honor Society:
 - Katrina Lynn
 - Kristy Gammill
 - Tom Connell

Outstanding Graduates 2016-2017

French:

James Bragado

Sarah Rizzo

Spanish:

Angela Blash

Japanese:

Thomas Connell

Kristy Gammill

Alpha Mu Gamma Spring Inductees

We are very proud of these students in our department who were recently inducted into our National Honors Society.

Spanish:

Ashley Daffin

Claudia Campbell

Lauren A Holste

Morgan Nicole Dunnermann

Katherine Mary Bluemel

French:

Anne Vandelicht

Japanese:

Tajeé Ruby Renea Watkins

In Loving Memory of Ryan Walsh

Ryan J. Walsh, a Spanish major in our department, passed on Sunday August 20, 2017, at the age of 27.

Ryan was the most positive person you could have ever met, with a smile from ear to ear. She was a free spirit and loved hiking, singing, and many other outdoor activities. Ryan was unique, one of a kind person. She was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.



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 the "Alumni News" section for our Spring 2018 newsletter.

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE & CULTURAL STUDIES

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