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Classical & Modern Languages Department

Volume 4

Spring 2017

Greetings from CML

Greetings once again, alumni and friends of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages. It has been very exciting to hear from so many of you over the course of the past year-and to learn that several of you have children who will soon be attending or making prospective student visits to Truman!

The department welcomed some exceptional new colleagues this academic year. Stacy Bryant (Ph.D., Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison), Stacy Davis (Ph.D., Washington Univ.) and Andrea Nata (Ph.D., Brown Univ.) joined the Spanish faculty, jumping right in to make solid contributions to our programs and co-curricular activities. Stacy B. adds a linguistics focus and will lead the Salamanca Study Abroad Program this summer; Stacy D, our new Spanish MAE liaison, will co-direct the Costa Rica Program; and Andrea Nata, who has recast the Spanish Club as the much cooler Club Ñ, will offer a new MAE online course this summer--"The Foodie's Guide to Spanish Culture".

French faculty member Audrey Viguier (Ph.D., University of Florida) has partnered with the Paris Chamber of Commerce to offer professional certificates in French language and profession-

al competencies, as well as to host a series of webinars, films and a Business French workshop for university faculty this May. Italian professor Aria Cabot (Ph.D., Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison) leads a reinvigorated C.I.A.O. (Club for Italian Appreciation and Outreach) and also sponsored an Italian Film Series, *Cineteca Italiana*, each semester. We have been a very busy department!

Though it is difficult to imagine life in the department after Faith Beane and Patrick Lecaque, both are completing their thirtieth years at Truman and joining the ranks of the CML retired! Faith's contributions have been enormous as instructor of French and Russian and long-time member of the Truman Fulbright committee. In addition to his French culture and art history courses, Patrick has held the position of Director of International Education since 1990. Don't miss their photo from 1997 on p. 10. (They haven't changed a bit!)

We again had some wonderful opportunities to reconnect with CML alumni this year. The Foreign Language Association of Missouri meeting in October brought together teaching alums from all over Missouri. In addition to attending interesting

sessions and gathering for our annual "CML Alumni and Friends" reception, we congratulated Jeremy Jordan (2005, Spanish), winner of FLAM's Distinguished Educator Award. The department also welcomed Brian Santos (2005, Spanish; 2006, MAE) and Jennifer (Roach) Miller (1996, Spanish; 1998, MAE) to campus in October for our "CML Alumni Speakers Series". Thank you, Brian and Jennifer, for a wonderful presentation!

Finally, CML celebrated a new first this April with the inaugural "Celebrating Student Success" awards reception. This was a wonderful opportunity to bask in the limelight with our very impressive award winners, among them six of Truman's nine Fulbright recipients. (See a list of honorees on p. 9)

I hope you have as much fun reading the Alumni Notes section as I had putting it together. Please visit us sometime soon to share an expertise or a memory!

Sincerely,

Lucy Lee

Professor of Spanish and Chair, CML





New Faculty Member in French: Dr. Audrey Viguier

This year Classical & Modern Languages welcomed a new member to the French faculty, Dr. Audrey Viguier, a native of Graulhet in southern France. Audrey completed her undergraduate education at the University Toulouse-Jean Jaurès where she pursued the study of English Literature and Civilization. After studying abroad in the United States, she earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in French from the University of South Florida and the University of Florida, respectively.

Audrey's research interests include the writings of the

French revolution, socialism in early 20th century France, and secularism in France. In the future, she would enjoy teaching courses at Truman in French for the Professions or French nationalism.

In the spring semester Audrey co-hosted *Crossing Borders*, a French/Spanish film festival on the topic of immigration, along with Spanish professor Sergio Escobar. She also served as the faculty advisor for the student organization United Speakers, which teaches ESL to Hispanic and French-speaking African immigrants

in the Northeast Missouri area.

Audrey notes that she has very much appreciated Truman students' open-mindedness and willingness to share ideas and participate in French co-curricular activities.

In her free time, Audrey enjoys travel and spending time outdoors. She plans to dedicate her summers to international teaching as a way to combine work and pleasure, and is planning a study abroad program in France for next summer!



President Luke Bishop and Treasurer Madeline Smith , accepting United Speakers ' award

United Speakers Awarded Outstanding Small Group Organization

United Speakers, formerly called *Hablantes Unidos*, was recently named "Outstanding Small Organization" at the Truman Leadership Recognition Ceremony. This award acknowledges and celebrates a small organization that has demonstrated a high level of commitment and involvement in carrying out the organization's mission, as well as positively impacting the Truman campus and community.

The goal of United Speakers is to provide language services to non-native speakers of English in the NEMO community on a voluntary basis, through

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, interpreting at parent-teacher conferences at nearby schools, interpreting at health fairs, and other projects.

In the last couple of years, United Speakers, which currently numbers 30 members, has worked intensively with the growing population of Congolese French-speaking immigrants in the Kirksville community, in addition to local Hispanic immigrants. The name change from *Hablantes Unidos* to *United Speakers* reflects their work with this increasingly diverse community.

Luke Bishop, president of the group for 2016-2017, noted that in his years of involvement with United Speakers, he has appreciated the opportunity to promote diversity and engage in a meaningful way with the nearby community as he provides a significant service.

Congratulations, United Speakers, on this impressive achievement!

CML Festival: Roman Gods, Reptiles, and More

In November the department hosted the largest group ever to attend the annual Classical and Modern Language Festival, welcoming 402 students from thirteen high schools in St. Louis, Quincy, and the northeast Missouri area. Faculty participation was also strong, with ten languages represented in twenty-three sessions.

Among the more innovative offerings were Dr. Aria Cabot's "Reptiles for Italophiles" sessions, offered in collaboration with Truman's Herpetarium, in which reptiles were used to teach Italian descriptive adjectives. Students learned to dance the polka with Prof. Andrea Davis' "Tanzen wir Polka-auf Deutch", and saw Classical mythology come to life in "Di Immor-

tales! Greco-Roman Gods in TV and Film" with Dr. Amy Norgard. Planetarium presentations in French and Spanish by Dr. Tim Farley, Dr. Stacy Davis, and members of LinguaProfs, the CML organization for future teachers, were once again a favorite.

According to this year's CML Festival Committee chair, Dr. Óscar Sendón, students were highly engaged in the sessions and were excited to be visiting a university. Guest teachers enjoyed seeing their students connect with language in new ways, as well as the opportunity to interact with each other and enjoy refreshments in the festival Hospitality Room, sponsored by *Vistas Higher Learning*. This year's Classical and Modern Language Festi-

val truly showcased the creativity and dedication of Truman's language faculty .



"Reptiles for Italophiles" in action

New Spanish Faculty Member: Dr. Stacy Davis

Dr. Stacy Davis joined the CML faculty this year as an Assistant Professor of Spanish. Stacy completed her undergraduate degree at Hollins College, earned an MLA in Comparative Literature from the University of Richmond, and received her Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature from Washington University in St. Louis. She attributes her interests in language, literature, and teaching to high school English and Spanish teachers, as well as college professors, who broadened her horizons and made language come alive for her.

Stacy has research interests in 19th and 20th century Peninsular literature, and currently has

plans to compile an anthology of the short stories of Emilia Pardo Bazán structured around the themes of masculinity, the end of Spain's empire, and immigration. She also hopes to bring the lesser-known works of Pardo Bazán to a wider audience.

During her first year at Truman, Stacy taught both language and pedagogy courses, co-teaching Management of Instruction for the Master of Arts in Education program with Tim Farley. This summer she is excited to co-direct the Costa Rica Summer program with colleague Sergio Escobar.

Stacy appreciates the culture she has found at Truman and the people she has met here. In her free

time, she enjoys traveling, spending time outdoors, cooking, and playing volleyball.



Dr. Stacy Bryant Returns as Tenure-track Faculty Member



The Classical and Modern Languages Department was happy to welcome Dr. Stacy

Bryant back this year as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Spanish. Stacy received her bachelor's degree from Macalester College and her MA and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Stacy's current research focuses on 13th century Spanish language and literature, interests that originated with courses on

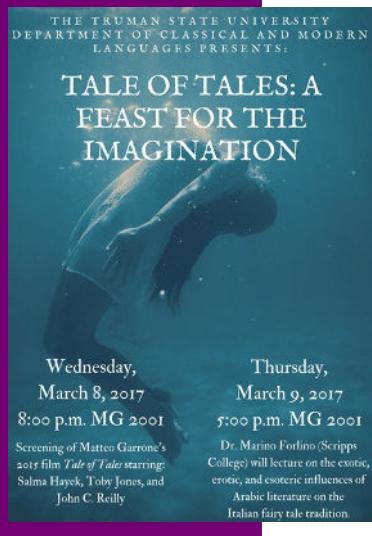
Spanish linguistics and the history of the Spanish language that she took while studying abroad in Valencia as an undergraduate. She has taught Spanish Phonetics and Phonology this year in addition to composition and language courses, and is interested in developing a Spanish sociolinguistics course in the future.

Stacy successfully directed her first capstone in the fall semester, 'La tensión entre la identidad judía y la identidad española en los romances sefardíes', written by Emily Otto. In the spring she di-

rected Michael Ziemniak's capstone, which applied various translations theories to French and Spanish translations of *Alice in Wonderland*. Stacy also served on the Romance Language Major Steering Committee and is directing the Salamanca Study Abroad Program this summer.

When not teaching or researching, Stacy enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time outdoors.

Tale of Tales: Cultural Exploration in Italian and Arabic Literary Traditions



Thanks to support from the Classical and Modern Languages Enrichment Fund, Dr. Aria Cabot was pleased to invite Italian professor Marino Forlino of Scripps College to Truman this past March.

In his talk, "Tale of Tales: A Feast for the Imagination", Dr. Forlino connected the Italian fairy tale tradition to the Arabic literary heritage that preceded it. A screening of the internationally acclaimed film *Tale of*

Tales (directed by Matteo Garrone, 2015), which features adaptations of three Italian fairy tales from Giambattista Basile's 17th-century collection of Neapolitan tales, was offered the evening before the presentation.

Additionally, during a guest lecture in Italian 325: Italian Civilization II, Dr. Forlino discussed the presence of Arabic culture in Italian literature, architecture, and art. His insightful presentation included a discussion of

Arabic treatises related to the phenomenology of love and the idea of love sickness, as manifested in various aspects of the Italian literary tradition. Through this creative scholarly project, Truman students and faculty had the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the merging of two distinct cultures through one common vein of the fairy tale tradition.

C.I.A.O.: Italian Appreciation Flourishes in Missouri

Dr. Aria Cabot eagerly embraced the opportunity to serve as faculty sponsor of C.I.A.O., the Club for Italian Appreciation and Outreach. Though C.I.A.O. has been an official organization at Truman since 2003, it experienced a period of inactivity until the fall semester of 2016.

Throughout the current academic year, members have met once a month to examine different aspects of Italian culture. In October, students compared Italian and American superstitions in celebration of Halloween; other activities have included hearing personal accounts of life in

Italy provided by Italian exchange students and corresponding with Italian pen pals. C.I.A.O. members held a bocce ball tournament this spring as a fun way to conclude the semester and enjoy the sport's Italian roots.

A long-term goal for the group is to eventually support a trip to Italy, where Truman students would get an authentic taste of Italian culture and life. As a shorter-term goal, members plan to travel to Kansas City to experience a traditional Italian opera. Dr. Cabot notes that "Even though we are in a small town, the dedication of our language stu-

dents combined with the excitement of our Italian international students has allowed us to create a growing community of Italian speakers and enthusiasts."

Thanks to C.I.A.O., a relationship between Italy and northeastern Missouri, reflected in the newly coined term "Italia-nemo", is flourishing and will continue to create positive cultural connections.



Francesco Setti, right, Italian tutor for 200-level courses, along with members of his speech class, offered a cultural presentation at the first meeting of the spring 2017 semester.

2017 Spanish Immersion Weekend

Truman students had a great opportunity to practice Spanish outside the classroom through participation in the department's annual Spanish Immersion Weekend, held at Camp Jo-Ota near Clarence, Missouri, from March 31-April 1.

The adventure began when students signed a contract, promising to speak only Spanish for the entirety of the trip. Activities on Friday evening and all-day Saturday included sharing and cooking traditional Hispanic dishes, viewing the award-winning film *También la lluvia* with discussion after-

ward, playing a variety of games, and engaging in numerous discussion activities. Professors Stacy Davis and José Carreño-Medina, faculty organizers and co-leaders of the event, enjoyed getting to know more students outside of the classroom setting. Faculty members Andrea Nate and Oscar Sendón joined the group on Saturday for a demonstration of how to cook a tasty tortilla de patatas.

outside of the classroom in a non-academic setting. Upon completion of the immersion weekend experience, students received one hour of elective credit.



For Stacy Davis, one of the best parts of the trip was that so many students were using Spanish

Dr. Andrea Nate Joins Spanish Faculty



Dr. Andrea Nate, a native of New Jersey, joined CML this fall as an Instructor of Spanish. Andrea traces the beginning of her love of language and culture to her high school Spanish classes. She received her BA from the College of New Jersey, followed by an MA from the Middlebury College School in Spain.

After spending two additional years in Spain as an instructor in a bilingual school, Andrea returned to the United States to earn her Ph.D. at Brown University. In her disserta-

tion, she examined social justice topics presented from minority perspectives in the literature of Medieval and Renaissance Spain.

In future research, Andrea plans to continue her work on medieval and early modern literature and culture, while enriching her intellectual repertoire with pedagogical research on service learning, particularly for Spanish for the medical professions. She looks forward to a research experience this summer in Madrid, where she will consult the collec-

tion of *aljamiado* manuscripts in the Biblioteca Nacional.

Andrea appreciates the support she has received from the faculty. She enjoys learning dances from all over the Spanish-speaking world, and has a great time teaching Latin dance and giving cooking classes as faculty advisor of Club Ñ, formerly known as the Spanish Club.

Most recently, she developed an online graduate course, *The Foodie's Guide to Spanish Culture*, for the Master of Arts in Education degree.

Let's Get Down to Business French!

French faculty member Dr. Audrey Viguier was drawn to the university for its well-known commitment to the liberal arts and its reputation for students who are serious about learning.

Dedicated to providing students with the best and most useful French education, she has introduced to the French program the DFP business diploma, recognized around the world as a measure of proficiency for those conducting busi-

ness in French. Truman students can now earn a "Diplôme de français professionnel," which will distinguish them from their peers when they enter the job market. Dr. Viguier has also partnered with the French Embassy to sponsor a seminar in Business French at Truman this May. University professors from around the country will travel to Kirksville to participate in this workshop and become better prepared

to teach Business French in their home universities.

Dr. Viguier is pleased that Truman's liberal arts culture is open to fostering a French for the Professions major-track in the near future. From the Toulouse area, Dr. Viguier brings not only her French heritage, but also a passion for creating new opportunities in French for Truman students.



Fulbright Scholars Become Bulldogs at Truman

This year CML hosted two Fulbright Scholars, Anastasia Galybina from Yaroslavl, Russia, and Riu Xu from Shanxi province, China. During their time here, the scholars worked as teaching assistants, instructing advanced classes in their native languages, and as cultural ambassadors for their countries.

Riu received her BA and MA degrees in applied linguistics from Shanxi University and plans to pursue a PhD in the future. Anastasia graduated from Yaroslavl State Pedagogical University three years ago with a degree in foreign languages and spent two years teaching secondary school in her hometown. She looks forward to introducing the methods of language instruction that she has learned during

her time at Truman when she returns to Russia.

Both scholars note that class sizes are much smaller at Truman than at the universities from which they graduated, and that there is more focus on communication and interaction between students and faculty.

In her free time, Riu enjoys sports, meeting American students, and being involved in the Society for Sino-American Studies. Anastasia enjoys hockey, jazz, and modern literature, and both scholars are appreciating the Campus Recreation Center.

Top Right: Riu Xu

Bottom Right: Anastasia Galybina (center) with Russian senior students



“Beyond the Curriculum” Provides Advice for First Year Teachers

This past October, the Classical and Modern Language department hosted a presentation by alumni Dr. Jennifer Miller and Brian Santos, “Beyond the Curriculum: Advice for First Year Language Teachers and the Incorporation of ACTFL Can-Do Statements.” Brian and Jennifer both earned their B.A.- Spanish and MAE-Foreign Language degrees at Truman

Jennifer is the Foreign Language Department Chair and Spanish Teacher at Francis Howell Central High School; she holds a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Missouri in St. Louis, and received her National Board Certification in 2007. Brian is a Spanish teacher at Francis Howell North High School. He was awarded the Francis How-

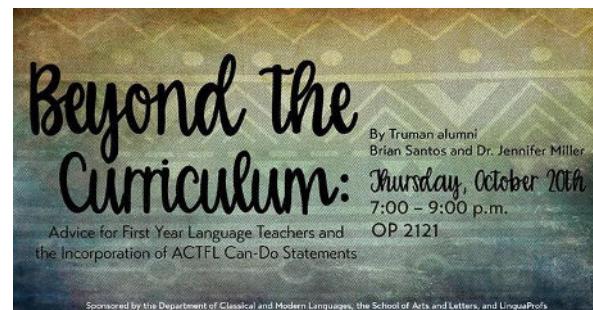
ell School District 2015 Teacher of the Year, the Missouri Foreign Language Association’s 2015 Distinguished Foreign Language Educator Award, and was selected as the Missouri Language Teacher of the Year by the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

During their presentation, Brian and Jennifer described how they revised the foreign language curricula in the Francis Howell District based on the “Can-Do” statements developed by the American Council of Foreign Languages. The “Can-Do” statements describe what learners should be able to do in the language at various levels of proficiency. They also explained how the FL curricula are based on the curricular framework that drives Ad-

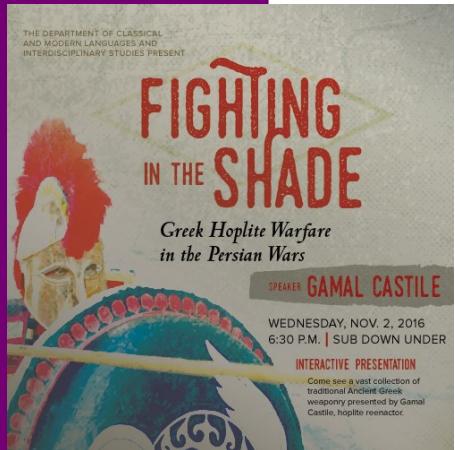
vanced Placement courses. Thus students in the Francis Howell District read, talk about, and write about topics related to Contemporary Life or Global Challenges, to name two of the themes, from the beginning of language instruction through the Advanced Placement course.

Brian and Jennifer led the audience in various paired and small-group activities throughout the presenta-

tion, demonstrating how language teaching can be engaging, interactive, and lead students to use the language to communicate. Dr. Timothy Farley, Professor of French and MAE-Specialty Director, with the assistance of LinguaProfs, the pre-professional organization for future language teachers, planned this alumni event.



Fighting in the Shade: Greek Hoplite Warfare in the Persian Wars



In November, the Classical and Modern Languages Department had the pleasure of hosting guest speaker Gamal Castile, a Greek hoplite reenactor who gave an engaging and interactive presentation about the military tactics that were used in the Greco-Persian Wars.

Mr. Castile, who was invited to Truman by Assistant

Professor of Classics Dr. Amy Norgard, is a former Columbia police officer who now gives educational presentations as an expression of his passion for Greek military history. In addition to providing information about the development of the hoplite as the citizen-soldier in the Greek city-state and the background of the Greco-Persian Wars, Mr. Castile used authentically recreated hoplite armor and weaponry to demonstrate battlefield techniques and even used audience volunteers to demonstrate the

working of the phalanx. He took questions throughout the presentation and his audience participated enthusiastically as their curiosity about the subject grew.

Dr. Norgard appreciated the visual and tactile nature of the presentation that made antiquities come alive for students, but believes that the greatest value of Mr. Castile's visit lay in showing students that a passion for learning and exploring can be a lifelong pursuit.

Italian Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Aria Cabot



Dr. Aria Cabot joined Classical and Modern Languages as an Assistant Professor of Italian this year. She received her BA in English and Italian from Smith College and cemented her passion for Italian while studying abroad in Florence. She then returned to Italy, first as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant and later as the resident director of a study abroad program. Aria earned her Ph.D. in Italian from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is cur-

rently preparing a manuscript on the history of Italian women's autobiography between the late 17th century and the early Romantic period. She is also working on a research project that explores elements of Italian and Italian-American cultural history in the autobiographical writings of Missourians such as Mark Twain, Walt Disney, and A.T. Still.

In addition to teaching, Aria is the faculty advisor of

C.I.A.O (Club for Italian Appreciation and Outreach), which brought Italian culture to life through various interactive activities for students this past year. Aria notes that Truman students combine the best qualities of both public and private universities, in that they are diverse, grounded, motivated, and intellectually curious. She greatly enjoys cooking, film, and opera in her free time.

Celebrating Student Success Awards Reception

On April 26th, Classical and Modern Languages held its first awards reception to recognize the extraordinary successes of language majors and minors in the 2016-2017 academic year. In addition to honoring those named as Outstanding Majors or qualifying for discipline honors, students were recognized for nationally competitive awards such as Fulbright and Critical Language Scholarships, performance on national exams, selection for participation in English teaching experiences abroad,



Award winners Lydia Pearson, Luke Bishop, and Clara Miller-Broomfield

and awards from student organizations.

Three new departmental awards were introduced: Outstanding Research/Creative Writing Awards, Outstanding Community Service Awards, and Outstanding Leadership Awards. Selection for these recognitions was based upon a departmental committee's evaluation of resumes, transcripts and cover letters submitted by nominated students. This year's winners are noted below.

Celebrating Student Success

Congratulations to the following students for their exceptional achievements this academic year!

National Awards

Fulbright Language Teaching Assistantships for 2017-2018:
Luke Bishop, Romance Language major-Spain
Christy Crouse, Spanish major-Colombia
Lucas Derry, French major-France
Shelby Kovack, Spanish minor-Spain
Matthew Warner, Spanish major/MAE: Spain
Sadie Williams, Spanish minor: Spain

Christy Crouse, Spanish major: Mario Vargas Llosa Award (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese/Sigma Delta Pi joint award)

Christy Crouse, Spanish major: US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to China, Summer 2017

"Outstanding Student Awards"

Classics: *Jordan Noland*
 French: *Michaela Hylen*
 Romance Language: *Clara Miller-Broomfield*
 Spanish: *Christy Crouse*

CML Awards

Outstanding Research/Creative Writing: *Clara Miller-Broomfield, Jordan Noland, Lydia Pearson*
 Outstanding Community Service: *Luke Bishop, Chelsea Firra*
 Outstanding Leadership: *Luke Bishop, Christy Crouse, Clarissa Goebel*

CML Departmental Honors in the Major

Classics: *Clarissa Goebel*
 French: *Lucas Derry, Michaela Hylen, Nicholas Vellios*
 Romance Language: *Luke Bishop, Clara Miller-Broomfield, Lydia Pearson*

Spanish: *Ian Antrim, Christy Crouse, Chelsea Firra, Lauren Reynolds*

Student Organization Recognitions

Christy Crouse, Spanish major: Premio Gabriela Mistral (Sigma Delta Pi, Student leadership)
 United Speakers Student Organization: Truman Outstanding Small Organization award

Classics Recognitions

Clarissa Goebel: Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies (Classical Association of the Middle West and South)
Adam Schmitz: National Eta Sigma Phi Latin Prose Composition exam, 2nd place

Italian Recognitions:

VoluntarItaly: *Lauren Kammerer, Anne Weis*
 SITE Program: *Clara Miller-Broomfield*

Lecaque and Beane Retire

In 1987 Patrick Lecaque and Faith Beane joined the faculty of the Division of Language & Literature at Northeast Missouri State University, where for the past 30 years they have taught students interested in language, culture and international study. Though much has changed since those early years, including the organizational structure of the university

and its name, Patrick and Faith have remained true to the liberal arts and sciences culture embodied in the CML Mission Statement co-authored by Faith.

As director of International Education since 1990, Patrick developed study programs on all continents, other than Antarctica, while continuing to teach French Civilization and, more

recently, Medieval Art History. Faith has taught Russian and French language courses, inspiring students to apply their language skills to study and work abroad. These colleagues, who have mentored generations of Truman students, note that they have thoroughly enjoyed the very collegial work environment at Truman State University. We will miss them!



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Want to be featured in our next newsletter?

Send us updates about what is new with you— career changes, further educational opportunities, family additions— we love to hear where you are today!

Entries can be sent to:
Dr. Lucy F. Lee
llee@truman.edu
Chair, Dept. of Classical and Modern Languages
McClain 310
Kirksville, MO 63501

CML Scholarships and Funds

If you would like to direct your Truman giving to a specific area related to your Truman major, please consider the following options to help ensure the future success of CML programs and students:

Classical & Modern Language Department Foundation Fund: Used to support opportunities for students: travel and participation in conferences, guest speakers, student plays, Romance Language House, etc.

The Vera Piper Endowment Fund: Scholarship support for study abroad in Costa Rica

The Dr. Maren Partenheimer Memorial Annual Fund: Scholarship support for study abroad

The Dr. Maren Partenheimer Memorial Endowed Fund: Scholarship support for CML students

The German Club Fund: Scholarship support for study aboard

The Max Kade Fund: Scholarship support for students in German Studies

The John and Denise Teal Classical and Modern Languages Fund: Scholarship support for French and Spanish majors

The Donna Crawford Fund: Scholarship support for French majors

Alumni Notes

John D. Sens (1966, German) has retired from his law career in Minnesota and Iowa and now resides in Newfolden, MN, with his wife, Rita. (It's always great to hear from you, John.)

Ken Fleak (1972, Spanish; BSE,) holds a PhD and MA in Spanish from the University of Missouri. After many years teaching at the University of South Carolina, he has very much enjoyed teaching Spanish language, literature and education in the Department of Romance Languages at the University of Missouri since 2006. Ken is an avid supporter of Mizzou Softball!

Chris (Murphy) Brown (1992, Spanish) is in her 22nd year of teaching and has spent the last 15 years at Southwestern High School in Piasa, IL, teaching Spanish and English. After Truman, Chris earned an M.S. in Secondary Education with a Spanish emphasis from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (1996). Married for 22 years to her high school and college sweetheart (Matt), she has three children and hopes to visit Truman soon as the mom of a prospective student.

Nikki Isemann (1992, German/Political Science) spent a year at Philips Universitat in Marburg, Germany on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship and then completed an MA in Political Science at Miami of Ohio in 1994. She taught German at Kansas State University while working on an MA in Modern Languages, and is now at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, NE, where she has taught German and Political Science. Nikki and husband Jim (History; MA, History) plan to bring their teenage daughter for a campus visit soon .

Jennifer (Meadows) Smith (1993, German) will graduate this month from the University of Mary Washington with her Master of Arts in Education/ESL. Currently a LD resource teacher for Prince William County Schools, she and husband Ken (Philosophy and Religion, '93) live in the Washington, DC, area with their two children, Nathan and Madeline. Nathan will graduate from Queens University in May and Madeline will be a freshman at Truman in the fall.

Jennifer (Roach) Miller (1996, Spanish; 1998, MAE) serves as department chair of World Languages at Francis Howell Central, where she has taught all levels of Spanish since 1998. She holds an EdD degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and earned National Board Certification in 2007. Jennifer teamed up with Brian Santos for an impressive alumni presentation for the department in October. (Thanks, Jenn!)

Julie (Lorentz) Kliethermes (1997, Spanish) has worked in the insurance field in St. Louis for 18 years. She reports that the service and technical insurance issues she handles have put the analytical skills learned at Truman to good use. Furthermore, her company sometimes asks her to review or create Spanish documents! Julie maintains her Spanish by attending bilingual masses at her church and interpreting at local elementary schools. She and husband Matt are the proud parents of seven-year-old Sofia, and recently traveled to Las Vegas for their 15th wedding anniversary.

Jay Terwilliger (1997, Spanish; 2001, MAE) teaches Spanish and works as a "Whole School Technology Integration Coach" at the Dhirubhai Ambani International School in Mumbai, the highest ranked day school in India. Previously, he held a variety of school leadership positions, including Director of Experiential Education at United World College in Costa Rica. He has also taught French and English.

Neil Hancock (1998, Spanish) currently resides in Urbandale, Iowa, where he is employed at Wells Fargo as Vice President of Digital Marketing.

Trish Quinn (2001, Spanish; 2003, MAE) has taught Spanish I to Pre-APIII at Wentzville Holt High School for the past 15 years. Next year she will add AP Spanish Language & Culture. Trish and husband Tim have been married for 15 years and have two children, Connor (13) and Delaney (10). (It was great to see Trish and her students at the CML Festival in November!)

Jenny Lonigro Giovannoni (2001, French) is currently teaching French Immersion Kindergarten in Mons, Belgium, with the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).

Brooke Sherrard (2003, Spanish/Communication) earned a Ph.D. degree in American Religious History at Florida State University in 2011 and is an Assistant Professor of history at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Erica (Campbell) Melton (2005, Spanish/English; MAE, 2006) works as a nurse at the Orthopedic Center at SSM DePaul Health Center. When she is not working, Erica enjoys spending time with her husband, Corey, and two children, Rickey (3 yrs.) and Joey (4 months).

Brian Santos (2005, Spanish; 2006, MAE) teaches Spanish 2, 4, and AP in the Francis Howell School District and serves as secretary of the Foreign Language Teacher Association of St. Louis. Last October, Brian and Jennifer Roach Miller were guests of CML as part of the Alumni Speakers Series, presenting to pre-MAE and MAE students. In June Brian will travel to Ecuador with 26 high school students for a service learning project.

Corie Bednar (2006, Spanish; 2008, MAE) teaches Spanish and advises the Student Council at Fort Zumwalt East High School, where she was named “Educator of the Year” for 2016. Congratulations, Corie!! She studied abroad in Barcelona last summer and joined Truman grads this spring at the Central States Conference for the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Suzanne Beiting (2006, Spanish; 2007, MAE) has lived in Germany for the past four years and recently accepted a position as Director of Studies with New Horizons English in Dusseldorf, the first ESL center of New Horizons Computer Learning Centers. She will be providing instruction to other ESL Centers. (Let us know if you need interns, Suzanne!)

Starr (Meek) Plato (2006, Spanish) lives in Steubenville, OH, with husband, Alex, and their two children, August and Magdalene. The last three years have been very busy! They have moved three times, had two babies, and earned two degrees (Alex, a PhD in philosophy from SLU, and Starr, a Masters of Theological Studies from Ave Maria University).

Megan (Wallace) Smallwood (2008, Spanish) teaches Spanish at Ladue Middle School in St. Louis and will celebrate ten years as a Spanish teacher next year. She recently attended a workshop on Comprehensible Input and is excited to incorporate story listening in her classes next year. Megan is expecting her second child in June. (Congratulations, Megan!)

Amy (Bockelman) Sellers (2009, Spanish; 2010, MAE) is an Academic Services Coordinator for the TRIO program at Kansas State University. She married in 2012 and in September 2016 welcomed her first baby, Magnolia, into the world! Amy is busy writing her dissertation for a PhD in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Kansas State University.

Elizabeth Bonanno (2009, Spanish/Political Science) earned a law degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder in 2012 and practices family law at Guterman Griffiths, PC, in Denver, CO, where she is a shareholder and was recently named a Colorado Super Lawyer Rising Star for 2017. Elizabeth is the only Spanish-speaking attorney in her firm. In October 2016, she married Ken Bradtke in the foothills above Boulder.

Claire Albrecht (2012, Classics) currently resides in Hong Kong, where she teaches English.

Sarah Sommerkamp (2012, French) pursued a Master of French Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in International Development (2015) and now works for a start-up NGO in Seattle, serving as office manager and agricultural liaison with a team in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Studying French at Truman prepared Sarah to work in cross-cultural environments and continue her French studies at Middlebury, UNIL and UW-Madison.

Shawn Bodden (2013, Russian/English/Linguistics) will enter the Ph.D. program in Human Geography at the University of Edinburgh in the fall, where he will study alternative cultural spaces in Hungary. Congratulations, Shawn!

Elise Keller (2013, Spanish; 2015, MAE) teaches English to English Language Learners at Guadalupe Centers Alta Vista Charter High School, a predominantly Latino high school in northeast Kansas City. She will travel to Rwanda this summer with a Fulbright Hays award to study the results of genocide. (Elise will visit Truman in the fall as an alumni guest speaker!)

Brian Jacob (2015, Music/German; 2017, MAE) has just completed his MAE and will begin his first year of teaching at Lindbergh High School in St. Louis as a German teacher. Congratulations, Brian!!

Emily Thompson (2016, French) is in the process of completing her internship to graduate from Truman’s MAE program (2017) and will teach French at Marquette High School next year. (Congratulation on landing a great job, Emily!)