



Classical & Modern Languages Department

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Inside this Issue:

- Dr. Tom Capuano highlights research** 2
- Vera Piper: 35 Years of Service and "Pura Vida"** 3
- Spotlight Organization: Eta Sigma Phi** 5
- Students teach ESL to recent Congolese immigrants** 5
- Sabbatical Enrichment: Professor Ernst Hintz** 7

This academic year:



French students indulge during ΠΔΦ's Crepe Night



Students sing karaoke at ΣΔΠ's annual Poetry Slam



Conversation & coffee flow at the weekly Deutscher Stammtisch gathering

Greetings from CML

Greetings, alumni and friends of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages! It's hard to believe that we are rapidly approaching the end of another academic year—saying good-bye to a great group of Classics, French, German, Romance Language, Spanish and Russian majors and already preparing to welcome the freshman class of 2014. That is the beauty of our profession: the end always leads to a new beginning, and change is the only constant.

It is always exciting for all of us in CML to re-connect with you, our alums, and hear of the wonderful ways in which life is unfolding, both personally and professionally. We very much wish to do a better job of staying in touch, so this newsletter is a way of doing that. We also want to let you know about several new initiatives centered on you!

For three years now, we have had the pleasure of welcoming you to our CML Homecoming celebration. We will do so once again next October, but this time we will also invite some of you to share with our current students the ways in

which your foreign language training has impacted your professional life. (Even as we speak, Tom Capuano is making calls.) Just last month we were able to spend time with our CML alums who are teaching throughout the state and beyond at an "Alumni and Friends" reception at the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in St. Louis. That was really a fun time! We will continue this tradition at the Foreign Language Association of Missouri annual meeting each fall, so please come to FLAM. We also appreciate the efforts that our recent graduates have made to respond with videos, pictures and quotes when we have asked you to appear in new publicity pieces and in our welcoming Prezi for incoming CML freshmen. The Prezi has been a great hit at prospective student visit days as well. You are stars!!

The department continues to experience change, as you can well imagine. Last year was a difficult one, as we said good-bye to retiring Spanish colleagues, Vera Piper and Roy Tanner. More of us will follow in the next few years,

but we are energized by the prospect of new colleagues who will lead our majors in new directions. Meanwhile, we continue to work diligently to serve students in the best ways we know how. The following articles provide a sampling of some of the highlights of the 2013-2014 academic year.

We invite you to let us know where you are and what you are doing so that we can include you in our next newsletter. But, most of all, we invite you to return to Truman and visit us whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Lucy Lee
Professor of Spanish
and Chair,
Classical and Modern
Languages



Twenty Years of Undergraduate Research with Professor Tom Capuano



Dr. Capuano has taught at Truman State since 1986.

This past May (2013), the Hispanic Society of Medieval Studies in New York published Dr. Tom Capuano's work entitled "Nine Technical Treatises for the Practical Professions in Spain: Electronic Texts and Concordances of Selected Texts on Agriculture, Sericulture, Commerce, and Medicine, 1400-1777." Dr. Capuano had been working on these texts since the late 1980's with the collaboration of undergraduate research assistants. The alumni in-

involved in the project include: Noelle Striplin ('91), Daniel Stites ('99), Jeremy Loscheider ('00), Stephanie Noll ('01), John Becker ('05), Raymond Feilner ('06), Kelly (Schute) Ponte ('10), and Anthony Baldwin ('12). While working with Dr. Capuano, these students learned to transcribe medieval and early modern manuscripts for inclusion in the Dictionary of the Old Spanish Language project, sponsored by the Hispanic Society of America in New

York. Working with the transcriptions thus not only led to the discovery of specialized vocabulary useful for the Dictionary of Old Spanish Language, but also allowed the students to explore areas of Spanish cultural history, such as commerce, medicine, and horticulture dating from the early fifteenth century.

Congratulations, alums, on your contribution to this outstanding publication!

Visit of Bill VanPatten, Expert in Second Language Acquisition

VanPatten is known internationally for his work in second language acquisition as well as second language instruction.

On January 9th, Truman State was pleased to welcome to campus Professor Bill VanPatten of Michigan State University, who attracted an audience of over 200 with his presentation titled "What Everyone Should Know About Second Language Acquisition (And Some Comments on Implica-

tions for Language Teaching)". Dr. VanPatten is known internationally for his work in second language acquisition as well as second language instruction. He is also a Spanish professor, director of language instruction, and affiliate faculty member of the cognitive science program at Michigan

State. This event was made possible by a grant written by Professors Timothy Farley, Sally Cook and Ron Manning and supported by the School of Arts and Letters, the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, and the Department of English and Linguistics.

Sigma Delta Pi's "Sonidos"



Sigma Delta Pi's 2013-2014 executive board.

This past fall, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society (Sigma Delta Pi) accomplished another "first" among the almost 600 chapters in the national organization by hosting a weekly

radio show. "Sonidos" aired each Wednesday night for an hour on KTRM 88.7, Truman's radio station.

The shows were hosted by several members of the Rho Rho chapter of SDP and featured weekly themes such as Caribbean Big Bands, Cumbia, and Reggaeton. This exploration of various genres

of Spanish-language music benefited not only club members, as other university students and community members were able to tune in and experience forms of Hispanic music they may not have previously known. Check out the Rho Rho webpage at sigmadelta-pi.truman.edu.

Classics are Alive and Kicking

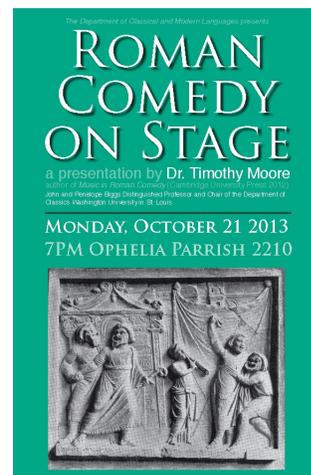
The Classics are indeed "Alive and Kicking"! Once a month, faculty and students join together in their love of all things classical and experience an installment of the Classics "Alive and Kicking" series. This past year has featured a variety of events, including a Greek dinner and a presentation on Roman comedy on stage by Dr. Timothy Moore, chair of the Department of Clas-

sics at Washington University in St. Louis and author of *Music in Roman Comedy*. This standing-room-only event attracted a varied audience of language, theater and English students and faculty.

Activities this semester included the annual Italian dinner, as well as a student reading of a poem by Catullus at the home of Dr. Kreps, an event past attendees of

the series surely remember fondly. If you would be interested in participating in this series by sharing how you incorporate the Classics into your current profession, please let us know!

**Presentation by
Dr. Timothy Moore.,
Washington University,
St. Louis**



35 Years of Service and "Pura Vida"



Beloved Spanish Professor Vera Piper retired in August, 2013 after 35 years of service to Truman and was honored at a retirement reception on September 13th. The event featured cuisine from Piper's home country of Costa Rica as well as performances and tributes by students, faculty, family members, and University President Troy Paino. Special highlights were the presence of Spanish alums from over 25 years ago, as well as Professor Piper's college roommate. We

were delighted that so many of you could attend!

Professor Piper has taught Spanish at many levels throughout her career and was founder and director of the annual Costa Rica Study Abroad trip for more than 25 years. Unveiled at the event was the Vera Piper Endowment Scholarship, created to honor the legacy of this esteemed professor and to financially assist students who want to study abroad in Costa Rica during their undergraduate career. More than \$25,000 was donated by present and former students, as well as faculty members, friends, and family, signifying just how great an impact this professor has had on the lives of many. The fund has already topped the \$31,000 mark and continues to grow.

Going forward, Professor Piper will continue to spend the majority of her year in Kirksville and will remain a present and active

part of the trip to Costa Rica. However, she also plans to enjoy her retirement by spending more time with her family in Costa Rica for a few months of the year. The department is honored to have had Piper for a colleague and friend for the past 35 years and are grateful for her gift of Costa Rica's "pura vida" right here in Kirksville.

If you are interested in donating to this endowment fund, please visit giving.truman.edu/VeraPiper for further information.



Vera Piper, center, surrounded by the Spanish faculty members



In order to increase their understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture and language, 20-30 members of the Japanese Club meet weekly to interact with one another. According

Japanese Club Experiences Growth

to Japanese instructor Shinya Uchida, the organization includes both native Japanese speakers who are international students at Truman as well as native English speakers interested in improving their language skills. Though the club was established in 2011, it received its official charter from the Center for Student Involvement this academic year.

Meetings focus on the exchange of culture between the two groups and are often centered around seasonally appropriate holiday celebrations. During the fall, the club studied the

origins of the celebration of Halloween in the United States and, more recently, examined the rich history of the Japanese New Year.

The young club is anticipating continued growth in the future and plans to attend the Japanese Festival in St. Louis next year. Prof. Uchida, who serves as faculty advisor, is thrilled at the progress they made thus far and is interested in advertising the club to all students, not just to those who have experience with the language.

French Play: *Le Médecin malgré lui*

Every semester, the French program, under the direction of Professor Patrick Lobert, delights us all by producing a short play. It's always exciting to see the fresh imagination and energy that Truman students bring to performing classic plays from the French repertoire. This semester's selection, *Le Médecin malgré lui*, was written by Molière in the mid-seventeenth cen-

tury. The comedy centers around a wine-loving woodcutter who finds himself in a variety of predicaments after unexpectedly posing as a respected physician. French students performed the play on April 16th and 17th to a full house. Their total control of the dialogue and language was impressive! Non-French speakers in the audience were also able to under-

stand the plot with the aid of English "subtitles"

projected throughout the production. This is a project supported entirely by our CML Foundation Funds. Thanks for your continued support, alums!



Costa Rica, 2013

Although Truman State University students have had the opportunity to study abroad in the tropics of Costa Rica for the past 25 years, enthusiasm for the program has continued to grow. This past summer 30 students spent 8 weeks in Costa Rica with Professors Vera Piper and Lucy Lee, gaining cultural experiences and language skills that will benefit them for years to come.

Some of the highlights of this year's trip were visits to the famous Cloud Forest of Monteverde, the beautiful beaches of

Jacó and Guanacaste, and the volcanoes of Poás and Arenal. Students left their comfort zones behind as they tried new experiences, such as zip lining and horseback riding. Several students report that they especially enjoyed their classes of Zumba and "Baile Popular" taken in downtown Alajuela! A very special event was the surprise party given at the beach resort of Jacó for Profesora Piper to honor her upcoming retirement.

Costa Rica 2014 promises to be just as breathtaking and memorable as previous trips. Professor Doman,



Students enjoy the breathtaking Costa Rican countryside during the 2013 summer study abroad trip.

whose specialty is the neo-tropics, will accompany the group this year and will be joined by Professor Piper. Pura Vida!

Spotlight Organization: Eta Sigma Phi

Eta Zeta, the Truman chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the national classics honorary society, had a busy year. Together with the Classics club, they hosted the annual *Iliad* Homerathon in the fall, and the *Odyssey* Homerathon in the spring in which students read a translation of Homer out loud on the quad. They also enjoyed watching together a classical themed movie, *Pompeii*. Several members took their Classical knowledge outside the classroom, teaching Latin and Roman culture to children in the local ele-

mentary and middle schools. Members once again volunteered as judges at the Missouri Junior Classical League Convention, where Dr. Bridget Thomas gave a presentation on dogs in the ancient world and Dr. Rebecca Harrison presented on Harrius Potter and Roman Curses.

Graduate student member David Giovagnoli was on the planning committee for this year's Eta Sigma Phi centennial national convention, which was held in Chicago, April 11-13. Six

students attended the convention, accompanied by Dr. Becky Harrison and Dr. Bridget Thomas. Truman's chapter distinguished itself by winning the regalia contest for "best club t-shirt", while junior Claire Drone-Silvers was elected secretary of the national executive board for the 2014-2015 year. Three new members were inducted into the local chapter in the spring initiation ceremony: freshmen Zara Callahan and Clarissa Goebel, and junior Corinne Pacht. We are so PROUD of them!

French Students Teach English to Recent Congolese Immigrants

This spring French Students, led by faculty member Ron Manning, have been presented with the unique opportunity of teaching English as a Second Language to recent immigrants from the Congo. Over the past month, 9-10 Truman students have generously volunteered their time and language skills to help this new community adapt to life in Kirksville. Truman was first introduced to this new group of residents through their children, who received interpretation assistance from Truman students at the local schools. These French students assisted the students with daily tasks, such as reading the lunch menu and adjusting to classes. Soon, the students' parents reached out to the tutors in the hopes that they too could receive lessons in English.

Ron Manning, the faculty sponsor of this new program, has had prior experience with English as a Second Language and is working with the Truman tutors to help them learn effective teaching methods. 22 Congolese attended

the first Saturday tutoring session held in the Language Learning Center! Many are very recent immigrants with little or no English skills, so the sessions focus on the acquisition of useful vocabulary and day-to-day communication skills, such as counting money and buying food. Manning describes the approach as task-based language acquisition, and the sessions use props such as actual money and weekly ads from local stores to help reinforce the concepts. Tasks such as recognizing the cheapest food option in an ad, finding an item in a large grocery store, and cooking with American ingredients are covered.

At present there is a 2:1 ratio of students and Truman tutors, which allows individualized instruction based upon each person's current language skills. Many of the tutors have had previous instructional experience in Truman's Peer Tutoring program. One volunteer, Abigail Bartee, who is a Romance Language major and has attended the majority



of the tutoring sessions, says of the experience: "Teaching English as a Second Language is something that I have looked into doing after graduation. I was surprised that were so many people there, and I learned a lot and hopefully they were able to also." Manning plans on continuing the lessons throughout the summer with French students who will be in Kirksville. His hope is that by next fall the program will have been formalized as a Service Learning Course within Classical and Modern Languages so that students can receive credit for their commitment of time and skills to the newest members of the Kirksville community.

"Teaching English as a Second Language is something that I have looked into doing after graduation"

-Abigail Bartee ('15)

Russian Travels



Shawn Bodden ('13) teaches English language courses as a Fulbright scholar in Georgia.

Truman State students of Russian have experienced the world this year more than ever before, gaining invaluable

cultural experience that will benefit them for a lifetime. In the Fall of 2013 two Russian majors, Andrew Swafford and Sean Tatham, participated in Truman's Moscow Study Abroad program. While in Russia, they explored the culture and history of this diverse country. A major highlight was their excursion to St. Petersburg, Russia. Andrew took advantage of being in Eastern Europe to travel to Budapest after

the program in Moscow concluded.

Truman graduate Shawn Bodden ('13, Russian, English, Linguistics) has spent the 2013-2014 academic year in the country of Georgia (in the city of Kutaisi) as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Shawn has been extremely busy, organizing various activities such as a mock U.N. for students, and an evening of English poetry reading. You can see Shawn reading at this event on the web site for the U.S. Embassy - go to georgia.usembassy.gov and search for "Poetry Kutaisi".

In the spring 2014 semester Russian faculty members Shannon Jumper and Faith Beane attended the "Central Association of Russian Teachers of America" in

Columbia, Missouri, accompanied by Andrew Swafford and Sean Tatham, both senior Russian majors. The faculty hope to send Truman students to present at this conference in the future.

Political Science major Chris Camrie is planning to study abroad with the Truman Moscow program this summer. Professor Faith Beane will also visit Russia this June to participate in a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Program of intensive language study at the Plekhanov Economics University in Moscow. While there, she will take the Russian as a Foreign Language exam (TORFL), a standardized test supervised by the Russian Ministry of Education and Science. This exam is a requirement to enter Russian universities.

Study Abroad in Salamanca, 2013

Truman State University students had the opportunity

to spend eight weeks this past summer studying abroad in Spain led by Professor Silvia Pites. Before students settled down with classes at the language school of Academia Mester in Salamanca, they had the privilege of traveling to important cultural and historical sites throughout the country for twelve days. Some of the cities visited included Madrid, Toledo, Sevilla, Córdoba, Granada and the sun-

drenched beaches of Málaga.

During their period of study, students lived with host families in order to fully immerse themselves in Spanish culture and language. They further explored the country by taking weekend trips to cities throughout Castile & Leon. Celebrating the end of classes, students participated in a series of farewell parties with the group, the school and the host families.

Students travel to Portugal during one of their weekend trips.



The Romance Language House



Romance Language House residents eating dinner in Missouri

The Romance Language House, an on-campus student living experience for speakers and enthusiasts of the Romance languages, has thrived this year under the leadership of Dr. Tom Capuano

and senior Spanish major and SA, Alejandro Domínguez-Delgado. The House, currently located in a wing of Missouri Hall, has nineteen residents who represent the languages of French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. Residents are strongly encouraged to speak target languages as frequently as possible. They also build camaraderie through events such as

movie nights, Latin cooking nights, and student-led discussions of current events related to countries where Romance languages are spoken. To properly celebrate such a successful year, the students are planning a Cinco de Mayo party during the last week of classes. 10 students have already signed up to live in the house during the 2014-2015 academic year, and Professor Capuano is expecting that number to continue to rise.

“[A sabbatical] is a special feature of the profession that helps to marry teaching and scholarship”

Sabbatical Enrichment

This past summer, Professor Ernst Hintz took a sabbatical trip to Germany to conduct research for his upcoming book, *Climbing Jacob's Ladder: Gender, Spiritual Warfare, and Salvation*. He travelled to Cologne and Duesseldorf, Germany, as well as Aachen and Charlamagne in search of material to support his study, which examines over 2000 years of tradition to understand why the theme of Jacob's ladder is so

omnipresent in medieval Christian tradition. Although the book will not be finalized until the end of 2014, one of its chapters, “Muspilli: the Practice of Justice and the Old German Judgement Day,” has already been published in *The Companion to the Medieval Apocalypse*.

Professor Hintz looks forward to speaking at the German Studies Association annual convention in Kansas City this September.

Many of his findings deal with the cardinal virtues and the fact that, in order to climb Jacob's ladder, men and women must embody certain traditionally feminine virtues. On a personal note, Prof. Hintz says that it is “gratifying being a Truman State professor and having the privilege of taking a sabbatical. It is a special feature of the profession that helps to marry teaching and scholarship, as one energizes the other.”

French Immersion Weekend

French students were once again invited to participate in the annual French Immersion Weekend at Camp Jo-Ota near Macon, Missouri. This year's program was led by Professor Ron Manning and featured various outdoor activities such as canoeing, hiking, badminton, petánque, soccer and volleyball—all in French, of

course. Students spoke French the entire weekend, transforming their campsite into a complete French experience, even if only for a couple of days. Reviews of the program before attendance are often filled with skepticism and fear, but after only one night without English, French students of all levels feel that

their listening comprehension and confidence in speaking has increased. French feature films, board games, French music help to transport students out of Missouri.



Two French students prepare to explore the lake by canoe at Camp Jo-Ota.

Homecoming 2014

The Department of Classical & Modern Languages invites you to Truman State's annual Homecoming celebration this coming fall! In addition to the traditional football game and class activities sponsored by the Alumni Office, CML will host two events for our alumni. The first of these is a panel presentation on Friday, October 10th, by three different alumni, who will share their career paths and explain the real world opportunities that a Classical or Modern Language degree can provide.

The following day, the CML department will participate in the second annual "Taste of the World Event" sponsored by the Kirksville Rotary Club. This event will feature international cuisine from around the world and provide a setting in which CML faculty members and alumni can reconnect. This will be an exciting weekend that you will not want to miss—and we don't want to miss you! Please contact Tom Capuano at tcapuano@truman.edu if you would



CML Faculty members gather at the Kirksville Arts Association for the "Taste of the World" Homecoming event to welcome alumni.

like more information about the events CML is hosting. We hope to see many of you in October!

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 can't wait to see where you are today!

Entries can be sent to:
Dr. Lucy F. Lee
Chair, Department of
Classical and Modern
Languages
McClain 310
Truman State University
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

Celebrating Student Success in 2013-2014

We celebrate the extraordinary achievements of the following students.

National Awards

Ivaree Baugh, Romance Languages Major: National Security Education Program David L. Boren Scholarship for the Mozambique African Languages Initiative Program (Portuguese).

Michael Berman, German major: Fulbright Fellowship to Germany.

Shayna Rosen, French minor: Fulbright Fellowship to Thailand.

Tom Sandbrink, Classics major: Summa Cum Laude distinction, on the National Latin Exam senior test.

Sarah Glenski, Spanish major: Recipient of the Gabriela Mistral award, granted by the Sigma Delta Pi national office for student leadership.

Elizabeth Ditch, Spanish Minor for the Professions: Recipient of a national Sigma Delta Pi stipend for study abroad in Guatemala.

CML "Outstanding Student Awards" for excellence in the major

Thomas Sandbrink: Classics

Tyler Lockett: French

Michael Berman: German

Jamie Knepper: Romance Languages

Andrew Swafford: Russian

Sarah Glenski: Spanish

Career Fair Opportunities for Foreign Language Students

As many of you remember, the Career Fair held each semester provides opportunities for graduating seniors and other Truman students to practice their interviewing skills, check-out the job market, and interview for actual JOBS. Polly Matteson of the Career Center ex-

tends a warm invitation to any alumni interested in recruiting Truman Foreign Language majors for your workplace, either as interns or as potential employees. Please consider coming to our Career Fair each semester! The next one is October 1st. You can contact

Polly at pollym@truman.edu.

Thanks to you, Erin Flannery, for providing internship opportunities this summer to CML students interested in a career in translation!



**Department of Classical & Modern
Languages**

**100 E. Normal Ave.
Kirksville, Missouri 63501**

Phone: (660) 785-4481

Fax: (660) 785-7486

**Email general inquiries to:
jschmitz@truman.edu**

CML Scholarships and Funds:

We are excited to have a newly created scholarship, the Vera Piper Endowment Fund, which supports opportunities for study abroad in Costa Rica! If you'd like to direct your Truman giving to a specific area related to your Truman major or to the CML Department, please consider the following options to help ensure the future success of our programs and students:

Classical & Modern Language Department Foundation

Fund: Used to support opportunities for students, including travel and participation in conferences, guest speakers, student plays, and the Romance Language House, among others.

The Vera Piper Endowment Fund: Supports scholarships for study abroad in Costa Rica.

The Donna Crawford Fund: Awarded to a French major to support study abroad.

German Club Fund: Supports study or internships in German-speaking countries.

The Max Kade Fund: Awarded to an outstanding German major.

The Dr. Maren Partenheimer Memorial Annual Fund: Supports scholarships for study abroad in Germany.

The Dr. Maren Partenheimer Memorial Endowed Fund: Supports scholarships for study abroad in Germany.

The Ray Roberts Memorial Fund: Awarded to a foreign language or English major; preference given to French majors.